FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-060
Tuesday
29 March 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-060 *29 March 1994*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Discussions Continue at G-15 Summit in New Delhi 1
Malaysia's Mahathir on Minimum Wage 'Scheme' *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 1
Concern Expressed Over Trade Barriers *[Delhi Radio]* 1
East Asia Growth Area Concept Discussed *[Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA 29 Mar]* 2

Arab-Israeli Talks

High Level 'Source' Details Israeli-PLO Agreement *[MENA]* 2
Sha'th Comments on Cairo Negotiations, Israel 4
Views Prospects for Reaching an Accord *[London AL-HAYAH 28 Mar]* 4
Queried on Security for Palestinians *[Jerusalem International]* 4
Says IDF Trying To Torpedo Talks *[AFP]* 5
'Urayqat: Peace Process 'Coming To An End' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
Rabinovich Comments on Talks With Syria *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 6

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further Reportage on Arab League Council Session 6
Jordan's al-Hasan Delivers Address *[Amman Radio]* 6
Al-Hasan on League Session, Charter *[Amman TV]* 7
Iraq's al-Sahhaf on Weapons, Foreign Relations *[MENA]* 7
Yemen's Basindwah Meets Kuwaiti Counterpart *[Sanaa Radio]* 8
Sudan's Abu-Salih Meets Kuwaiti, Iraqi Counterparts *[MENA]* 8
'Foreign Plots' Against Sudan Condemned *[SUNA]* 8
Morocco's Filali on League, UMA Talks *[MAP]* 8
'Text' of Arab League Resolution on Libya *[JANA]* 9
Iraqi, Jordanian Ministers Depart *[MENA]* 9

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Welcomes Somali Pact Deal *[SPA]* 9

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Calls Meeting To Discuss 'New Massacre' *[Cairo International]* 10
Qaddumi Explains Demands for Return to Talks *[MENA]* 10
Aide Urges Linking End to Embargo, Clinton Remark *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 28 Mar]* .. 11
Fatah Central Committee Discusses Threat to Unity *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Mar]* .. 12
PFLP-GC Claims Murder of Israeli Soldier *[Al-Quds Radio]* 12
PFLP-GC Issues 2d Communique on Ambushes *[Al-Quds Radio]* 12
PFLP, DFLP Denounce U.S. Stance on Jerusalem *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 13
PFLP: 'Arafat Must Meet Conditions or Quit *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 29 Mar]* 13

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Agrees To Maintain Production Ceiling *[AFP]* 13
Nigerian Minister Supports Summit Decisions *[Lagos Radio]* 14
OPEC Headquarters Considering Move to Geneva *[AFP]* 14

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Zeroual Meets With Parties, Organizations 15
Continues Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Denies Upcoming FIS Meeting *[Algiers TV]* 15
Comments on Contacts With FIS *[AFP]* 15
FLN Group Urges National Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 15
FLN Rules Out Participation *[Algiers TV]* 16
Russian Embassy Employee Found Slain *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Retired Brigadier Named as Adviser to Head of State *[Algiers TV]* 16
LA NATION To Cease Publication 'This Week' *[Algiers Radio]* 16

Egypt

Pakistani Justice Minister Views Mubarak Meeting *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Oman, UAE Leaders Send Message to Mubarak *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Opposition Party Warns Against Lifting Boycott on Israel *[MENA]* 17
Speaker Addresses IPU on Nonproliferation, Somalia *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Delegation Returns *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Islamist Dissident Confesses in TV Interview *[MENA]* 18
Shaykh 'Abd-al-Kafi Banned From Sermons, Travel *[AL-SAFIR 23 Mar]* 18
Contract Signed To Make Parts for F-16 Fighters *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 20 Mar]* 19

Libya

JANA Views French Foreign Minister on Lockerbie *[Tripoli TV]* 19
Libya's Withdrawal From Aouzou Strip Viewed 19
Minister Affirms Compliance *[Rabat Radio]* 19
OAU Asked To Monitor Events *[AFP]* 20
Bani Walid Violence Protests Conviction of 'Agents' *[AFP]* 20
Authorities Deny Clashes *[Paris International]* 20
Aide Criticizes Economic Embargo, Sanctions *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Mar]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Source on Ties With GCC, Sudan *[KUNA]* 22

Oman

Pakistan's Bhutto Arrives for 3-Day Visit 22
Comments Upon Arrival *[Islamabad TV]* 22
Talks With Sultan Detailed *[Islamabad Radio]* 22
'Joint Communique' Issued *[Muscat Radio]* 23
News Conference Held *[Muscat Radio]* 24
Further on News Conference *[Islamabad Radio]* 24
Joint Statement on Bhutto Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 25
Muscat Invites Israel to Water Committee Meeting *[London AL-HAYAH 26 Mar]* 25

Yemen

Salih Receives Oman's Bin-'Alawi, Qabus Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 25
Al-'Attas Confers With Omani State Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 26
Yemeni Official on Cabinet Session *[Amman TV]* 26

IRAQ

Defense Minister Wounded in Assassination Attempt *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 27

Two Army Companies Reportedly Defect to Kurdistan *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 27
Speaker on Boycott, Ties With Neighbors *[AL-SAFIR 22 Mar]* 27
UN Vehicle Attacked at Checkpoint *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 28
Islamic Resistance Controls Road, Kills 3 *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 28
Two Senior Officers Reportedly Killed in Clashes *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 28
Paper Urges Greater Ties With Other Nations *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 23 Mar]* 28
Paper Criticizes OPEC Output Ceiling Decision *[INA]* 29
Paper: Case for Embargo 'Immensely Weakened' *[INA]* 30
World's 'Silence' on 'Massacre' in South Criticized *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 30

ISRAEL

Peres Comments on Jabalyah Incident, IDF *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 31
Peres on Talks, Palestinian Police, Settlers *[Tel Aviv TV]* 31
Peres on Settlements, Peace Process *['AL HAMISHMAR 25 Mar]* 32
Beilin Discusses Progress of Peace Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Delegation Departs for Security Talks in Cairo *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Knesset Member on Stance on Palestinian Protection *[Cairo International]* 35
Political Source on Peace Negotiations With Syria *[HA'ARETZ 29 Mar]* 36
Soldiers Open Fire, Kill Six Gazans in Jabalyah 36
'Severe' Riots Break Out *[Jerusalem TV]* 36
Shahaq Phones Sha'th on Incident *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
15 Wounded in Riots in Nabulus, Strip *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Further Riots, Casualties Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Shots, Bombs Reported in Nabulus, Janin *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Resident Attack by Arab in Petah Tiqva *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 38
IDF To Prevent Hebron Settlers March *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Settlers Promised Notice Before Hebron Evacuation *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Mar]* 38
Settlers Prepare New Routes for 'Reinforcements' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Reservists Refuse Duty After Commander's 'Suspension' *[HA'ARETZ 25 Mar]* 38
'At Least Eight' Reservists Refuse Service *[Jerusalem TV]* 39
U.S. 'Dual Containment' Policy on Iran-Iraq Questioned *[HA'ARETZ 29 Mar]* 39

JORDAN

Aqaba-Bound Ship 'Turned Away' Despite Agreement *[JORDAN TIMES 29 Mar]* 41
U.S. Plans To Ease al-'Aqabah Blockade Reported *[Amman Radio]* 41
King Links Talks With Israel to Resolving 'Siege' *[JORDAN TIMES 29 Mar]* 41
UN Official Briefed on Effects of Port Inspections *[Amman Radio]* 42
Paper Views King's Call for End to Aqaba 'Siege' *[AL-DUSTUR 29 Mar]* 43
'Siege' of al-'Aqabah Shows 'Contempt' *[AL-RA'Y 29 Mar]* 43
PLO Envoy Arrives To Brief Officials on Cairo Talks *[Amman Radio]* 44
'Positive Stand' Conveyed to al-Majali *[Amman TV]* 44
Minister Returns From Arab League Meetings *[Amman TV]* 44
Al-Majali Calls For Arab Solidarity *[MENA]* 45
Islamic-Leftist Coalition Urges Talks' Pullout *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 29 Mar]* 45
Explosion Suspects To Stand Trial in Apr *[JORDAN TIMES 28 Mar]* 45
Austrian Award to Salman Rushdie Protested *[AL-DUSTUR 28 Mar]* 47

LEBANON

Buwayz Returns From Cairo Meeting, Comments *[Beirut Radio]* 48
Al-Hariri Views Commitment to Continued Resistance *[London AL-HAYAH 26 Mar]* 48

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Returns From Arab League Session *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Khaddam Receives Lebanese Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Qaddurah Hosts Pakistani Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Polish Trade Union Delegation Arrives on Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Arab Fund To Cofinance Power Plant Development *[Damascus Radio]* 49

DPRK Education Official Concludes Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Dostam-Golboddin Troops Shell Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 50
'At Least' 25 Killed *[Islamabad Radio]* 50
Hezb-Eslami Official Calls for End to War *[IRNA]* 50

Iran

Armenians Accused of Downing Iranian Plane 50
Action Criticized *[AFP]* 50
Foreign Ministry Comments *[IRNA]* 51
Plane 'Forced' To Alter Flight Path *[Tehran TV]* 51
Tehran Expels Norwegian Consul *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Velayati To Depart on 6-Nation African Tour *[IRNA]* 51
Minister: OPEC Sells Oil at 'Unrealistic Price' *[Tehran Radio]* 52
* Methods for Sale of Government Units *[RESALAT 6 Mar]* 52
* Banking Decisions To Control Foreign Exchange Market *[RESALAT 6 Mar]* 53
* Budget Cuts Aimed at Financial, Other Problems *[RESALAT 6 Mar]* 55
* Registration of 36 Foreign Companies Noted *[RESALAT 15 Feb]* 55
* Khamushi Discusses Foreign Exchange Problems *[RESALAT 2 Mar]* 56
* Court of Justice: Dealing With Peoples' Complaints *[RESALAT 15 Feb]* 57

Pakistan

Envoy to India Notes Local Reaction to F-16 Issue *[Islamabad Radio]* 60
5 Vehicles Burned in Karachi; 2 Killed in Shooting *[Islamabad Radio]* 60
Indian Troops Allegedly Kill 12 People in Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 60

Discussions Continue at G-15 Summit in New Delhi

Malaysia's Mahathir on Minimum Wage 'Scheme'

BK2803162394 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has warned the nations of the South about the emerging tendency among developed nations to impose a global minimum wage scheme. This will erode the competitive edge that developing countries currently enjoy. The prime minister raised this issue today during the plenary session of the fourth G-15 summit meeting in New Delhi.

Briefing Malaysian journalists, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he regarded the prime minister's statement as an early warning for developing countries so they are not caught up in what is seemingly a very attractive scheme to protect the interests of workers. He said Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir pointed out that such a scheme is not advantageous to them. The economies of developing countries economies would be destroyed. They would lose their competitive edge and ultimately be confronted with a severe unemployment problem. The only advantage that developing countries currently have is cheap labor. This has enabled them to develop their economies and produce goods at a much cheaper price. On the other hand, the developed nations have numerous advantages, such as capital, skilled manpower, and modern technology.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir told leaders at the session that if they are forced to accept the global minimum wage scheme, their economies will be continuously harmed. Although the scheme looks good on the surface, it will not be beneficial because it will ultimately lead to the closing of factories and bring about unemployment. He also pointed out that the standard of living is low in the developing countries and should therefore not be compared with the developed nations. He considered the move to impose a global minimum wage a protectionist policy against the developing countries, regardless of whether such a policy is linked to issues of democracy, the environment, or human rights.

Datuk Abdullah said the prime minister also welcomed the issue raised by the Senegalese President Abdou Diouf with regard to the Western media. The president believes the Western media does not present an accurate picture of the nations of the South, particularly the African states. The media only highlights negative aspects. Malaysia truly understands the sentiments expressed by the Senegalese leader.

The current leaders of the G-15 are holding an unofficial meeting with representatives of leaders who are unable to attend the summit.

Concern Expressed Over Trade Barriers

BK2803163394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Leaders of G-15 countries have expressed serious concern over attempts by developed countries to raise new trade barriers after of the conclusion of GATT agreement. At the plenary meeting of the summit in New Delhi today, they pointed out that new areas of trade distortions are being created by raising issues like human rights and environment. This could create new difficulties for developing countries who are now carrying out economic reforms. Instead the leaders wanted greater market access to developing countries to help their reform process.

The summit leaders have agreed to have wider consultations among member countries to achieve a concerted and coordinated approach to promote trade in the wake of protectionism. They said it is the mandate of the developing countries that there should be greater cooperation between the South-South countries. Eighteen on-going projects were reviewed and the need for setting up a monitoring system to speed up the implementation was highlighted. The heads of state and government have also decided to establish two projects. They include the setting up of a renewable energy promotion center and a project on the transfer of technology and development to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and energy supplies.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, himself set the tone of the summit by cautioning against replacing the old barriers lowered by GATT proposals with new ones in the guise of noneconomic concerns. Inaugurating the three-day summit, he said there is reason for concern over attempts to undermine multi-lateralism because of unilateral action and demands for concessions beyond those agreed to at Uruguay Round of negotiations. Mr. Rao called for mobilizing world opinion against forces of terrorism, separatism, and fundamentalism. He also referred to the wide-ranging issues, including the restructuring the United Nations, constructive dialogue with the G-7 industrialized nations and the need for closer economic cooperation. President Suharto of Indonesia, who spoke as the Asian group representative, regretted that developing nations have very little to say in shaping global economic policies. He warned that if the changing international scenario is not managed with care now, it may end up with pernicious North-South economic divide. Speaking on behalf of the African group, President Sani Abacha of Nigeria called for specific projects for removal of poverty, job creation, industrialization ,and debt reduction.

AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports that the main concern of the leaders who spoke at the summit today was on creating closer economic ties among the developing nations at this critical juncture. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Abdou Diouf of Senegeal were also seated on the podium of the plenary hall in the Vigyan Bhavan [conference hall], which was decorated for the summit with flags and buntings.

Briefing newsmen later, an official spokesman said all the leaders participated in the plenary session. The special envoys representing other countries joined them in informal consultations later. They discussed at length the restructuring and democratization of the United Nations, including the security Council, and international financial institutions like the IMF and the World bank. The business forum of the G-15 countries, which also met simultaneously today, expressed concern at advanced countries raising nontariff issues like human rights and child labor to block exports from developing countries. Presiding over the meeting, the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, called for collective action of the group to counter such moves.

East Asia Growth Area Concept Discussed

BK2903105594 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0731 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (OANA-BERNAMA)—President Suharto of Indonesia supports the concept of the East Asia Growth Area (EAGA) encompassing Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Tuesday [29 March].

Mahathir said he explained the concept to Suharto during bilateral talks here Monday.

Both are here to attend the three-day fourth summit of the Group of 15 developing countries which began Monday.

Dr. Mahathir said he informed Suharto that Philippine President Fidel Ramos had also agreed to the concept, initiated by Malaysia for the mutual benefit of the countries involved.

Dr. Mahathir and Suharto also discussed the need to reduce airport landing fees to promote cross border travel between the two countries.

Also discussed was the question of greater air links among South countries to promote better contacts between their peoples.

Arab-Israeli Talks

High Level 'Source' Details Israeli-PLO Agreement

NC2903085994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 29 Mar (MENA)—A high level Palestinian source has revealed that the agreement to be signed between the PLO and Israel in Cairo today provides for resuming the talks between the two sides with a view to implementing the Gaza-Jericho Agreement as soon as possible. It also provides for Israel's adoption of a set of measures to meet the increasing security needs of the Palestinians, especially in Hebron.

The Palestinian source informed the MENA correspondent in Tunis of the text of the agreement, which includes the following points:

A. A temporary international presence in Hebron.

B. Deployment of the Palestinian police force and its activity in Hebron.

C. Joint patrols in Hebron.

D. Israel's responsibility for the security of all Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

E. Resumption of the Gaza-Jericho talks as of today.

The following is the text of the agreement:

Following the heinous crime in Hebron and in accordance with Security Council Resolution 904, the Israeli and PLO delegations met in Cairo on 23 March and agreed to adopt the following measures to meet the increasing security needs of the Palestinians, especially in Hebron.

This agreement led to resuming the talks between the two sides to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement as soon as possible.

A. [letter as received] A temporary international presence in Hebron.

Israel believes this presence should be for observation purposes, while the PLO believes it should be for the purpose of meeting the Palestinians' need for security and stability by helping with observation and submitting reports on the acts that affect the safety of the Palestinians and their property, which will encourage the return of normal life among the Palestinians.

To facilitate the tasks of the international observer force, an office will be set up in Hebron. The office will submit periodic reports to the joint Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Affairs Committee to be formed in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

The international observer force will submit reports on specific incidents to the Joint Hebron Committee composed of the Israeli military governor of Hebron, the Palestinian mayor of Hebron, and the commander of the soon-to-be-formed Palestinian police for the town. The PLO believes an invitation should be sent to the representative of the international observer force to participate in the meetings of the Joint Liaison Affairs Committee.

Israel believes the members of the international observer force should wear civilian clothes and carry pistols, while the PLO believes they should wear official uniforms with special insignia to be agreed upon by the two sides, that their cars carry this insignia, and that they be armed with light weapons for self-defense in Hebron.

Israel believes the international observer force should number 20. The PLO believes their number should be 200 in addition to an enhanced role for the International Committee of the Red Cross by raising the number of its team to 30 representatives.

Israel demands that the financiers appoint 20 Norwegian civilians while the PLO demands that the financiers should appoint 200 individuals from their own citizens as observers on condition that the first batch will be appointed from Norway, Egypt, and the United States.

The duties of the international observer force are to provide a sense of security for the Palestinian residents of Hebron and create the appropriate atmosphere leading to strengthening the prosperity and economic progress of the Palestinians. The duty of this force is also to supervise the return of normal life to Hebron and to complete reports on that.

The members of the international observer force will enjoy freedom of movement to perform their duties. This freedom will not be limited for any reason other than compelling military requirements, which will be temporary and extraordinary measures.

The financing countries will bear the expenses of the force. The International Red Cross is asked to expand and intensify its activities in Hebron by increasing its staff to 30 individuals. The force can proceed with its work as soon as the agreement is signed. Israel is demanding that the term of the observer force be three months while the PLO is demanding a one-year term with the approval of the two sides, which can be extended in accordance with the agreement.

Regarding the deployment and activity of the Palestinian authority in Hebron and without prejudicing Israel's authority and its responsibility for security and public order, the two sides agreed on the formation of the Palestinian police and its work in the town.

Israel demands that the police number 50 individuals while the PLO demands that it number 400 policemen who will be chosen and appointed by the directorate of the Palestinian police force that will be formed in Gaza and Jericho.

The duties of the Palestinian police in the town will be to protect public establishments and the Palestinian installations on which agreement will be reached and to participate in joint patrols. The police will periodically hold contacts with the directorate of the Palestinian police force to receive general instructions, training, and administrative duties connected with it.

The Palestinian police will submit its reports to the Joint Liaison Affairs Committee, which will define the daily activity of the Palestinian police personnel in coordination with the Israeli security and police forces. Israel's collective responsibility for security will be recognized.

To coordinate between the Palestinian and Israeli police, the Joint Liaison Affairs Committee will set up a coordinating bureau in Hebron administered jointly and working 24 hours a day. The committee will define all details regarding the structure and tasks of the Hebron police coordinating bureau.

Israel demands that the Palestinian policemen in Hebron wear ordinary clothes and carry pistols while the PLO demands that they wear a special uniform with an insignia, carry light weapons, and that their cars carry special insignia to be agreed upon by the Hebron coordinating committee.

The two sides will negotiate in Cairo on the organizational structure of the Palestinian police in the town and on its equipment and vehicles.

The Palestinian police in Hebron will work in accordance with a special decree issued by the military governor defining its duties and tasks.

As for regulations governing the joint police patrols, the duties of which are to provide security for the Palestinians, observe the situation, and compile reports on it, Israel believes that these patrols should be the same as the patrols in the city of Hebron and consist of two Palestinian policemen and two Israeli policemen in one vehicle driven by an Israeli officer of a higher rank.

The PLO believes that there should be two four-wheeled vehicles, one Palestinian and the other Israeli. The vehicle [not further specified] will be distinguished from other vehicles in the area and driven by an Israeli officer of a higher rank. He should be in contact with the police coordination office.

The Joint Hebron Committee is specifying and equipping the number of patrols, defining their duties, and drawing up the course of their patrol and the routes they should follow.

In the agreement, Israel affirmed its responsibility for the safety of all Palestinians and Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including the city of Hebron. It will continue to implement all the necessary measures to avert any conflict between the settlers and the Palestinians and to prevent acts of violence by the settlers.

With respect to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the two sides agreed to resume the Gaza-Jericho negotiations today, Tuesday, and to speed them up to make up for lost time. Israel will reduce the period of the withdrawal schedule and adhere to the dates specified in the Declaration of Principles.

Immediately after finalizing the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the negotiations on the early transfer of authority will start. The two sides will then discuss the possibility of expanding the scope of negotiations and resuming them over the transitional arrangements in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

The agreement reconfirmed that preparations for the permanent situation will start as soon as possible on condition that they do not continue beyond the third year of the transitional period, as is stipulated in the Declaration of Principles.

The gradual entry of the Palestinian police into Gaza and Jericho will start one week after the resumption of the

Gaza-Jericho negotiations, so as to start preparations for taking on responsibilities and authority.

Sha'th Comments on Cairo Negotiations, Israel

Views Prospects for Reaching an Accord

PM2803153694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali Nun: "Gaza-Jericho: Implementation Agreement May Be Signed Tomorrow"]

[Excerpt] London, Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Today, Monday, the Palestinian leadership is waiting to hear about the Israeli Government's position on the outstanding points concerning implementation of Security Council Resolution 904 on Hebron security arrangements, which were not settled at last week's negotiations in Cairo between the Palestinian delegation, headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and the Israeli delegation, headed by General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff.

Sha'th told AL-HAYAH over the telephone yesterday that the Israeli response "which we might receive from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's office by fax or phone will deal with two fundamental points: first, the number of Palestinian police elements, their weapons, and their authority. Second, the number of international observers and their nationalities. If we get something that satisfies us, the agreement will be signed tomorrow, Tuesday, in Cairo, and a timetable will be drawn up immediately to implement this agreement, then we will move to complete the negotiations concerning Gaza and Jericho."

He pointed out that "utmost precedence is at present given to security arrangements to Hebron. We will not complete the talks on Gaza and Jericho before we finish with this issue. And if Rabin is expecting us to begin the self-rule negotiations tomorrow, it means that he is going to offer us a satisfactory reply on Hebron today."

He pointed out that Israel "is agreeing—in principle—for the first time to implement a Security Council resolution, even though some of the details have not yet been completed." He ruled out a meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Rabin "at present." However, he said that this will be on the cards "when we reach an agreement on all outstanding points."

Well-informed Palestinian sources in Tunis have told AL-HAYAH that the PLO is demanding the participation of U.S., Russian, and Egyptian elements alongside the Norwegian elements in the provisional international observation force in Hebron, while Israel offers to accept only 20 Norwegian observers armed with pistols together with 30 elements from the International Red Cross Committee and 50 elements from the Palestinian police. The sources say that Israel wants the occupation authorities to be the authority to which the Palestinian police should refer, and it refuses to allow the international observation force to report to the cosponsors of the peace process, that is Washington and Moscow—which is unacceptable to the PLO, which for its part believes that any effective foreign measures in Hebron require "hundreds of international observers, Palestinian police elements, and an international authority that guarantees implementation of Resolution 904 and hence a nonrepetition of the attacks on the people of the city."

The sources ruled out the possibility that the differences between the two sides in this connection will be settled "today or tomorrow." They believe that "this may require a meeting in Cairo between 'Arafat and Rabin before any measure is implemented, whether with regard to Hebron, Gaza, or Jericho."

The sources confirmed reports released over the past two days by more than one Israeli and U.S. official regarding the entry of Palestinian units into Gaza and Jericho "within days." They said that Israel has informed the PLO of its willingness to "immediately hand over to it the points the Israeli Army has evacuated in Gaza and Jericho. This could take place within 10 days. Thus it can be said that the implementation of some aspects of self-rule will begin before 13 April." [passage omitted]

Queried on Security for Palestinians

JN2803173294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1549 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chief of the Palestinian negotiating delegation to the Cairo talks, in Cairo, by Sa'id Mu'addi, in the studio; date not given; from the "With the Events" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening, Sa'id.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, has the Palestinian side received an Israeli reply to the Palestinian proposals on the number of Palestinian policemen and international observers who will enter Hebron?

[Sha'th] We have not yet received any replies on these figures. All that we have received is the telephone conversation which Major General Shahaq held with me. He told me that he will lead the Israeli delegation that will come to Cairo tomorrow in order to complete the talks on Hebron security. Shahaq said: It is better for us to bring our information to Cairo in order to complete this instead of conveying it via telephone or fax.

Naturally, we understand this, but we hope that the Israeli delegation will bring something that will enable us to achieve security in Hebron as a prelude to achieving security for all Palestinian citizens in the occupied Palestinian territory. This is the path that will allow the completion of negotiations on Gaza and Jericho. If this does not happen, we will not have learned anything from the hard lesson represented by the Hebron massacre. This lesson requires us to emphasize measures that will prevent the recurrence of such massacres.

As you know, the situation in Hebron has been extremely tense since the massacre. Thus, we cannot delay the implementation of the Palestinian measures represented

by the Palestinian police force, and the UN measures, represented by the international observers, as well as the Israeli measures, whose implementation is urged, in order to provide security for the Palestinians in Hebron and other territories. This is an important and vital issue, and I hope the Israeli delegation will bring a reply on this issue.

[Mu'addi] In your conversation with Maj. Gen. Shahaq, did you feel that there were positive signs and that it is possible to achieve an agreement tomorrow on the security arrangements in Hebron?

[Sha'th] I have not received any clear information, apart from what I have said. It all depends on what the Israeli delegation brings tomorrow, which, I hope, will be positive. I also hope that the Israeli cabinet has decided on something that will respond to the Palestinians' security needs, particularly in Hebron. This will open the way for the completion of negotiations. Without this, we will spend the whole time in Cairo on Hebron security.

[Mu'addi] The PLO has demanded the deployment of Norwegian, Egyptian, Russian, and U.S. observers. Has Israel agreed on this demand?

[Sha'th] As was published and said, Israel is now supportive of deploying international observers in Hebron in implementation of Security Council Resolution 904, which provides for deploying these observers in all occupied Palestinian territories in order to provide security for the Palestinians in these territories.

Naturally, we agree on the Norwegian observers without reservations; they sponsored the peace process, and they are still making great efforts to maintain this process. We, however, want the important states—which are participating in the peace process and supporting both the Palestinian police and the coming Palestinian authority; namely, the donors [preceding word in English], including, of course, the cosponsors of the peace process, Russia and the United States, and also Egypt, which is playing an important role in the peace process, as well as Norway and other European states—to support both security and peace, and this is the reason why we proposed these particular states.

[Mu'addi] When will the vanguards of the Palestinian policemen arrive in Hebron, Jericho, and Gaza?

[Sha'th] Once there is agreement on the measures on Hebron security, the Palestinian police and the international observers will immediately move to Hebron. A few days after we begin the Gaza-Jericho negotiations, the vanguards of the Palestinian police will head for Gaza and Jericho.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil, the last question is: Has the Palestinian side received a reply on your proposal to the Israeli side on repatriating Mustafa al-Natshah, the former mayor of Hebron?

[Sha'th] This issue has not yet been discussed, and no specific names have been proposed. Mustafa al-Natshah, also known as Abu-'Umar, is necessarily the elected mayor of Hebron, and thus he carries popular and electoral weight. This issue, however, has not yet been discussed on the negotiating table.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, in Cairo, thank you very much.

[Sha'th] Thank you.

Says IDF Trying To Torpedo Talks

NC2903093694 Paris AFP in English 0921 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 29 (AFP)—PLO chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th on Tuesday [29 March] accused elements within the Israeli army of wanting to torpedo the Middle East peace process after soldiers shot dead six Palestinians on the eve of a new round of talks.

The shootings were "a premeditated crime carried out in cold blood by killers within the Israeli army who want to kill the peace process," Sha'th told AFP.

Israeli troops shot dead six members of the armed wing of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah group on Monday in a Gaza Strip refugee camp. Another Palestinian died and 25 were wounded in clashes with Israeli troops on Tuesday.

Palestinian witnesses denied Israeli army allegations that the Fatah men were armed, and said they were shot in cold blood as they handed out leaflets.

The shootings came as Israel and the PLO prepared to meet in Cairo Tuesday amid hopes of clinching a security deal for protecting Palestinians, opening the way for a resumption of autonomy negotiations.

Sha'th said it was not a coincidence that last week "five Palestinians were killed in Hebron (last week) on the eve of a resumption of talks ... and that they (Israeli soldiers) committed a crime in Gaza on the eve of Tuesday's talks."

Sha'th said he has also been in touch with the US officials about the incident.

Army deputy chief of staff General Amnon Shahaq telephoned Sha'th during the night to explain the shootings were "not premeditated" and that such incidents were unavoidable, Israeli state radio said.

Sha'th declined to say whether Tuesday's talks would now be postponed following the latest shootings.

He said he had been in contact with PLO headquarters in Tunis where "intense meetings have been going on all night."

An Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said Israeli negotiators were to fly to Cairo Tuesday despite fears that the talks may not go ahead.

Five Palestinians were killed in a 20-hour Israeli army operation last week in Hebron, when soldiers pounded a house being used as a hideout for members of the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS, hours before Israeli and PLO delegations met in Cairo.

'Urayqat: Peace Process 'Coming To An End'

TA2903060694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Palestinian peace negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat says he believes the peace process is coming to an end and there is no point in continuing the talks without ensuring effective international protection for the Palestinians. 'Urayqat spoke with reporter Mark Weiss after the Jabalyah incident.

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] Well, I think Mr. Rabin has decided to move massacres from one place to another. It seems to me that Palestinian lives are not that important and of no value to what authorities of the Israeli Government are concerned. [sentence as heard] I think the incidents in Hebron, the incidents in Jabalyah today [28 March] are grave. Is this Mr. Rabin's response to our demands to have international protection? Is this Mr. Rabin's response to us, when we urged so many times that this unnecessary use of violence, this unnecessary escalation conducted by the Army must stop? We think just this stresses our point that until we have effective international protection, I think there is no sense in going ahead with the peace talks.

[Weiss] And what do you think the correct Palestinian response should be to the killing of these Fatah activists?

['Urayqat] The killing of Palestinians, irrespective of their affiliations, is something of a grave consequence; it is something that we take very, very seriously. Human Palestinian lives are really very, very important to us. And, Mr. Rabin is deciding on the ground the fate of the peace process, which in my honest opinion, is coming to its end.

[Weiss] Would you support a postponement or a total withdrawal of the Palestinian team from the Cairo talks?

['Urayqat] I think that even if they go on talking in Cairo, unless they can get an Israeli commitment to evacuate the settlers from Hebron, I think if they cannot get a commitment to a genuine, effective international protection for the Palestinian people, I think these negotiations will be of no value. [end recording]

Rabinovich Comments on Talks With Syria

TA2803122794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] A short while ago, we spoke with the chief Israeli delegate to the talks with Syria, Israel's Ambassador to the United States Itamar Rabinovich, whom we asked whether the reported new format of talks with Syria meant a certain compromise on the part of each party—namely, the depth of withdrawal on the part of Syria and the nature of peace on Israel's part.

[Begin recording] [Rabinovich] It does not necessarily mean a desire to compromise on this basic equation. Rather, it is an acknowledgment that after many months of haggling over this issue, the negotiations will be better off if their scope is expanded. In this sense, an agreement on the equation is almost devoid of any significance. I do not want to belittle it, of course, but it does not have any merit per se, and I think both the Americans and the Syrians now realize it.

[Correspondent Itay Engel] By the way, what was the level at which the decision to alter the format was made? Have the Syrians agreed to it? So far, we have only heard our prime minister's remarks on this matter.

[Rabinovich] Just last week, the U.S. peace team visited Damascus. Their visit followed the prime minister's U.S. visit and talks in this vein. The matter was presented to President al-Asad by the U.S. peace team, and we have been told that his reaction was favorable and positive. The reaction has generated some of the present optimism concerning this track.

[Engel] Will the revised format help the Israeli-Syrian negotiations out of the bind? Will it lead to a breakthrough?

[Rabinovich] I think the revised format of negotiations is all you said, but above all, it shows that the negotiations have reached a degree of maturity, that the Syrian approach is now more realistic in that they now realize that negotiations cannot consist of the two parties reiterating their respective stands and eventually reaching a verbal agreement. A true agreement is first and foremost one which changes the reality. To secure a change, the agreement must address that reality. In the reality of Israeli-Syrian relations, questions such as security, water, and a genuine implementation of the agreement are no less important than the verbal and legal formulations on which the negotiations had focused until recently.

[Engel] Is there an envisaged time frame for the signing of a joint declaration of principles that will pave the way for negotiations on details?

[Rabinovich] I do not want to give rise to expectations of a fast breakthrough. The negotiations are difficult and complicated, and even if we manage to change the format and the climate, I would not want to create an expectation of an imminent breakthrough. This process will benefit if it is conducted in a new format and if it gathers momentum when the talks are resumed at the end of April. I hope to see results in the subsequent weeks and months, but it would be definitely premature and wrong to start speaking of dates and deadlines.

[Engel] Thank you very much, Professor Itamar Rabinovich. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further Reportage on Arab League Council Session

Jordan's al-Hasan Delivers Address

JN2603205794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said the world has witnessed the most grotesque crime of this century. Al-Hasan was alluding to the

massacre of innocent worshipers at the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque during the blessed month of Ramadan. He said in our view and in view of the world, the massacre proved the racist settler trend continues to hold sway in Israel, finding support, cover, and facilities and revealing the bad conditions of the Palestinian people under occupation.

Al-Hasan said Israeli crimes continued after the Hebron massacre. The least occurred the day before yesterday, and was committed by Israel after the issuance of Resolution 904, in contempt of all rules of international legitimacy and human values.

In a speech at the opening of the 101st session of the Arab League council that began in Cairo today, al-Hasan said this grotesque crime explains to us the importance of the unified Arab stand in affirming the condemnation of Israel and exposing its intentions, and the need to coordinate among the brothers to confront challenges and dangers.

Al-Hasan said: In Jordan, we moved on Arab and international levels. We contacted permanent and other members of the UN Security Council. The condemnation of the crime was made plain. We demanded protection for the unarmed Palestinian people. We asked the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and affirmed the need to remove Israeli settlements from the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Hasan on League Session, Charter

JN2603211994 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, in Cairo, by Hani al-Badri, in the studio on 26 March—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Badri] Sir, we would like you to give us an idea about the general atmosphere of the meetings of the 101st session of the Arab League's Ministerial Council in Cairo.

[Al-Hasan] I delivered a speech at the beginning of the meeting. I explained Jordan's position on the peace process. I pointed to the efforts Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn made concerning the massacre of worshipers in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque during the blessed month of Ramadan.

In the deliberations, I also pointed to the need to upgrade coordination among the Arab parties that are directly concerned with the negotiations, and the need to achieve Arab reconciliation in a way that leads to good Arab solidarity.

[Al-Badri] Your Excellency: You met with the Egyptian prime minister this afternoon. Please give us a brief idea about this meeting.

[Al-Hasan] I indeed had the honor of meeting with his excellency the Egyptian prime minister this afternoon. At the beginning of the meeting, I conveyed to him the greetings of His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali. During the meeting, which the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo attended, we discussed a host of bilateral issues, led by convening the Higher Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee, which, we hope, will hold a meeting in Amman next month.

I also briefed his excellency the Egyptian prime minister on several Jordanian positions and issues, led by Jordan's position on, and adherence to, the peace process, as well as other issues linked to the siege on the Gulf of Aqaba we are suffering from, and the need to lift the siege on Jordan, which inflicts great damage to the Jordanian economy. This damage totals $300 million a year.

Moreover, I briefed the prime minister on some other Arab, regional, and international issues.

[Al-Badri] With regard to amending the Arab League's charter, which is a top priority on the 101st session's agenda in Cairo, would you please brief us on the general framework of such an amendment?

[Al-Hasan] Before answering this question, I would also like to note that I met with His Excellency Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa yesterday as part of the continued bilateral consultations and coordination.

With regard to amending the Arab League's charter, it has been agreed to link this issue to pan-Arab security and to delay discussing these two issues until there is a better Arab situation and until Arab reconciliation is achieved. We hope this reconciliation will be realized as soon as possible under the best circumstances.

Iraq's al-Sahhaf on Weapons, Foreign Relations

NC2603194294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has stressed that Iraq is neither keeping nor able to produce any type of weapon of mass destruction now that such weapons have been completely destroyed under the supervision of the UN commission set up for this purpose.

In a news conference at the Arab League headquarters this evening, al-Sahhaf called on the UN Security Council to lift the embargo against Iraq now that the country has met its obligations on the destruction of weapons of mass destruction.

He said Security Council procrastinations in this regard are a kind of political pressure applied by the member states, especially the United States, against Iraq to overthrow President Saddam Husayn.

He noted differences among the Security Council's permanent members on the removal of the boycott. He explained that France, China, and Russia support lifting the embargo.

The Iraqi foreign minister said the Iraqi people are suffering diseases, epidemics, and food and medicine shortages. He said his country cannot import food and medicine because of a lack of finances. This causes large numbers of children and elderly to die daily, he said.

On Kuwaiti captives and detainees in Iraq, al-Sahhaf stressed that not one Kuwaiti is imprisoned in Iraq. He said that all prisoners from all nationalities were released through the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] at the end of the war.

He said Iraq is cooperating with the Arab League to solve this problem. We invited popular committees from the Kuwaiti parliament to see the facts for themselves but the Kuwaitis rejected the offer, he said.

He said Iraq is prepared to provide all facilities to the ICRC, the Arab League, the Gulf states, and any other Arab country to solve this problem.

He said Iraq's relations with the Gulf states, especially Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain, are good. He said Iraq's relations with the United Arab Emirates have not been broken off either.

Yemen's Basindwah Meets Kuwaiti Counterpart

JN2703071294 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Yemeni Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah met with brother Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, in Cairo yesterday evening on the sidelines of the current Arab League Council session.

During the meeting, the two ministers discussed fraternal bilateral ties, means to promote them, as well as issues of common interest.

Sudan's Abu-Salih Meets Kuwaiti, Iraqi Counterparts

NC2703145794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has stated that the issue of supporting Sudan and preserving its territorial integrity has occupied a prominent place in discussions at the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers today.

In a statement he made today on the sideline of the Arab League Council meeting, Abu-Salih said that he held bilateral consultations with both the Iraqi and Kuwaiti foreign ministers. He added that his meeting with the Kuwaiti foreign minister is the first such meeting since the Gulf war, noting that this is a good gesture to clear the atmosphere and achieve inter-Arab reconciliation.

'Foreign Plots' Against Sudan Condemned

EA2803164694 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih has met here on the sidelines of the current Arab League Council's meeting his Qatari, Iraqi, Syrian, Kuwaiti, and Tunisian counterparts, SUNA learned.

Dr. Abu-Salih has reviewed with his Qatar counterpart progress of the distinguished relations between Sudan and Qatar. They underscored the importance of intensifying contacts between the two sister countries. Dr. Abu-Salih has briefed the Qatar minister on the recent developments in Sudan, particularly the efforts to realize peace in the country.

Meanwhile, the League's ministerial council has unanimously declared full support to Sudan's struggle to safeguard its unity and sovereignty. The council has condemned the foreign plots aimed at separating the south of Sudan.

In a press statement, Dr. Abu-Salih has praised the unanimous Arab attitude in support of Sudan which has been facing the threat of harming its unity. He pointed out that the resolution's project in this regard has received due support from all the Arab countries which had voiced their condemnation of any foreign attempt to interfere in Sudan's internal affairs.

Dr. Abu-Salih stated that the Sudan is waiting for the visit to the Egyptian foreign minister to Khartoum to resume talks on ways to resolve differences between Sudan and Egypt referring to Hala'ib issue. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed Saturday [26 March] before the League's Council his country's support to Sudan in the face of foreign plots.

The Libyan foreign minister, Ibrahim al-Bishari, also emphasized his country's unshakeable support to Sudan's unity, warning of the conspiracies to separate the southern part of Sudan. He explained that the war in south Sudan is a plot which will affect the security of Egypt and Libya.

Morocco's Filali on League, UMA Talks

LD2803143894 Rabat MAP in English 1301 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, Mar. 28 (MAP)—The Arab world will gain nothing if it remains on the fringe of the developments sweeping over the world at political and economic scales, said Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali.

Filali, who led the Moroccan delegation to the 101st ordinary session of the Arab League Ministerial Council held here March 25-26, told MAP bureau here he was confident that the Arab world, thanks to the wisdom of its leaders, will overcome the difficult situation it is going through.

Filali underlined the importance of the issues tackled by the league session recalling that participants have called on the Security Council to take measures to guarantee the security of all the states in the Middle East and to enable them contribute to the promotion of a new era based on understanding, mutual trust and cooperation in the social and economic realms.

Pointing out that the discussion of a number of issues such as security in the Arab world and the boycott of Israel was postponed, Filali however deplored the postponement of

the item related to the Arab League Charter amendment. He said the Charter, signed in the forties by seven Arab countries which were then independent, must keep pace with the changes taking place on the Arab and international scenes.

He added however that Morocco backs the idea to revise the Charter rather than the idea to amend it, as claimed by some member states.

Filali, who [words indistinct] had conferred with several Arab foreign ministers on the fringes of the league session. He thus met with peers from Egypt, the Comoros Islands, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia.

He also attended Saturday a coordination meeting between the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) meant to coordinate Maghreban states' stands on the items slated on the agenda of the league ministerial session and to review issues of concern to UMA. UMA gathers Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

'Text' of Arab League Resolution on Libya

LD2803155594 Tripoli JANA in English 1448 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, al-Rabia'a 28 [28 March], Jamahiriya News Agency—The Arab League Council has reaffirmed its previously adopted resolutions which concern its solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah and it support for its efforts in trying to achieve a peaceful and just solution to the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Western countries.

In a resolution passed at the end of its meetings the Arab League Council expressed its complete support for the proposal put (?forward) by the the general secretariat which calls for a just trial for the suspects at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice in the Hague emphasising to the Security Council the importance of following through such a proposal taking into account the need for a peaceful solution to prevent an escalation which would lead to an increase in tension in the region.

The Arab League Council entrusted the secretary general with the task of following up the execution of the resolution while also expressing its full appreciation for the Great Jamahiriyah's initiative to solve this crisis in a peaceful and just manner.

The Arab League Council then reiterated its condemnation of the continuation of the unjust harsh measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of the baseless resolution imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by the Security Council at the bidding of the Western countries expressing its extreme concern at the human and material effects of these unjust measures.

The Arab League's Resolution was as follows:

'The League's Council, referring to Resolution 5156 of 5/12/1991, 5158 of 16/1/1992, 5156 of 22/2/1992, 5224 of 13/9/ 1992, 5281 of 19/4/1993 and 5328 of 21/9/ 1993 concerning the harsh measures and threats which the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is being subjected to by the United States, Britain and France.

Does refer to Article 33 of the United Nations Charter, dealing with the solving of conflicts through negotiation, mediation and judicial settlements, does express its extreme concern at the human and other suffering incurred by the Libyan people and neighboring countries as a result of UN Security Council Resolution 748 of 1992 and 883 of 1993, and does express its full appreciation for the positive initiatives (?undertaken by) Libyan to solve this crisis and its positive response to the stipulations of UN Security Council Resolution 731, and does therefore express its extreme concern for the escalation of the crisis by imposing additional sanctions and the threat of the use of force, a method which is a violation of all international conventions and international law.

Does also express its appreciation for the efforts exerted by the seven-member committee and the secretary general of the Arab League in order to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict.

After an examination of the general secretariat's memorandum, and after a perusal of the latest developments of the matter, does therefore decide: 1) To reaffirm its previous resolutions concerning solidarity with the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and support for its efforts in arriving at a peaceful solution to the crisis within the framework of respect for Libyan national sovereignty and the principles of international law. 2) To support the recommendtion of the general secretariat calling for a just trial for the suspects, presided over by Scottish judges and held according to Scottish law at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice in the Hague. It urged the Security Council to take this serious and novel recommendation into account in order to seek a peaceful solution to prevent an escalation which would serve to increase the tension in the region.

Iraqi, Jordanian Ministers Depart

NC2803194694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this afternoon for home after a three-day visit to Egypt. During their visits, the two ministers participated in the Arab League Council's 101st session that began at the Arab League headquarters last Saturday.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Welcomes Somali Pact Deal

LD2803221094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2018 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 28 Mar (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Permanent Secretariat has expressed its satisfaction with the peace agreement signed in Nairobi between Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Mohamed

Farah Aydid, under the aegis of the special representative of the UN Secretary General.

The ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid has affirmed, in a statement issued today, that such an agreement was an important step in the peace process and towards the rebuilding of Somalia, adding that the organization was supporting the Nairobi agreement, which reflected the acceptance of all parties of the need to find a peaceful negotiated solution to the conflict, urging all parties to respect it. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Calls Meeting To Discuss 'New Massacre'

NC2903054694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called for an urgent meeting of the PLO leadership in Tunis today to discuss the peace process and the developments in the occupied Arab territories after eight Palestinians were killed distributing leaflets in Gaza and 47 others were wounded by Israeli occupation gunfire. 'Arafat described the incident as a new massacre. He said: We are facing a secret organization from inside the Israeli Army and the settlers, which seeks to destroy the peaceful solution.

The Palestinian president said he informed Washington and Moscow, in their capacity as the sponsors of the peace negotiations, about the incident and said the PLO will present a memorandum to the Security Council in this regard. 'Arafat stressed that the Israeli Army and Government are blamed for such attacks against the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Explains Demands for Return to Talks

NC2903100294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Mar (MENA)—PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi has stated that the Palestinians will not resume negotiations with Israel on the implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho before the Israelis respond to the Palestinian proposals, which provide only the minimum of protection for the Palestinian people in Hebron.

We are awaiting these responses so that our people can feel safe, assured, and sense some achievement, Qaddumi told MENA.

In his statement, which comes only hours before the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli talks on measures to protect Palestinians in Hebron, Qaddumi said an agreement should have been reached immediately after the massacre.

He said that when the Israelis came to Tunis they promised to agree immediately to several points. Regrettably, they backed down on their promises, as they usually do, he added.

Qaddumi said this Israeli policy will not help the political settlement. Indeed, he added, it will create further obstacles and difficulties. He noted that the Israelis are using the same tactics in their negotiations with the Jordanians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese.

Qaddumi defined the Palestinian leadership's basic demands for the resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, which are scheduled to begin on 13 April. These include deploying sufficient international forces in Hebron and all other occupied Palestinian territories in accordance with Security Council Resolution 904, evacuating the settlers from Hebron, implementing the withdrawal as scheduled, and discussing the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. He said these settlements constitute not only an obstacle, but a threat to the entire political process.

Qaddumi said the Israelis are evading the implementation of Security Council Resolution 904 on international protection for the Palestinians.

He said talk about differences over the size of the Palestinian police force, the international protection force, and joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols is merely an Israeli attempt to dwarf Palestinian demands. It is as if the differences were over numbers, not principles, he said.

He said Israel is still evading acceptance of these conditions, basically on the pretext of numbers, while it really does not want to implement the Security Council resolution.

Qaddumi stated: "I challenge Israel to announce that it is ready to discuss the settlements, which represent an obstacle to peace. I challenge Israel to withdraw immediately or to disarm the settlers."

All this, Qaddumi maintained, indicates that our differences with Israel are over principles, not over numbers or other similar things, which are raised only to play down the real differences at the negotiations.

Qaddumi said the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are moving with extreme difficulty. We have had this in mind from the beginning, he said, noting Egypt's experience in its three years of negotiations with Israel over Taba.

Qaddumi said in this regard that during those negotiations, Israel presented maps to Egypt, which had to go to Istanbul—as late Turkish President Turgut Ozal told him—to obtain the right maps. This shows Israel's constant policy of forging facts and procrastinating, Qaddumi said.

He said that while Israel has repeatedly claimed it would withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967, it is actually fabricating further obstacles and excuses to maintain its occupation.

Qaddumi stressed that the Palestinian leadership is under pressure and strong criticism from the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. He also noted frustration among the Palestinian people, which was reflected in the escalation of the intifadah.

All this constitutes pressure on the Palestinian leadership, he said. The Palestinian people in the occupied territories, he added, want the negotiations to be broken up until Israel, the Security Council, and the sponsors of the peace conference—the United States and Russia—implement the Security Council resolution. He said the Palestinian people do not want the leadership to go to the negotiations before the world provides the necessary measures for the Palestinians to feel safe and assured.

Qaddumi said: Our people have taken the initiative and escalated their intifadah against Israel to tell the world that they reject settlements and want a speedy withdrawal. These are two basic demands by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

On Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's implicit criticism that the Palestinians failed to coordinate with the other Arab parties involved in the peace process, Qaddumi said the Palestinians were the ones who sought coordination. He noted that the PLO worked to end its estrangement with Syria after the Gulf war.

He explained: We went to Damascus and began to coordinate with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt. We are extremely eager for Arab coordination, which must continue.

Noting that the Syrians consider the signing of the Oslo Agreement a departure from Arab coordination, Qaddumi said that despite the contents of that agreement—which he himself opposed—one should not keep bringing up these matters because it will only weaken the Arabs' negotiating cards.

He said that the Syrian foreign minister stressed during their recent meeting in Damascus that Syria was ready to coordinate with the Palestinians to mobilize international public opinion after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. This is a positive Syrian position, he said.

Qaddumi stressed that the Palestinian side is in direct contact with the brothers in Syria on coordination.

All of us in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and the PLO are stressing the importance of Arab cooperation, without which we will weaken our negotiating cards, he said.

He said that the Palestinian leadership has decided to return to this policy as soon as possible.

On the importance of coordination before a return to the negotiations, the PLO Political Department chief said that under clear instructions from the Palestinian leadership he held direct talks with the foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan, and other Arab countries. He said he also instructed the Palestinian representative at the United Nations to coordinate with the Arab group and its chairman, Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi of Egypt.

He said the PLO also called for an urgent Arab League meeting, which resulted in resolutions condemning the Hebron massacre and explaining Arab demands. He said Arab coordination over the massacre was evident.

At the end of his statement, Qaddumi expressed the belief that the Israelis will not be honest during today's talks in Cairo.

By applying international pressure on them and exposing their positions, we must force the Israelis to meet the Palestinian demands, which were recognized by the UN Security Council, he said.

He stressed that Israel fears to live in a political isolation that would hurt its society and heighten the internal dispute to the level of a clash, which is already happening.

Aide Urges Linking End to Embargo, Clinton Remark

PM2903101294 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Spokesman Urges Arab States To Lift Embargo Imposed on Iraq and Libya, in Retaliation for Washington's Position"]

[Text] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—A Palestinian spokesman has urged the Arab states to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq and Libya in retaliation to statements made recently by U.S. President Bill Clinton on Jerusalem.

PLO Executive Committee member Taysir Khalid said that Clinton's statements to leaders of U.S. Jewish organizations on Jerusalem "are in conflict with Security Council resolutions, which consider Israel's annexation of holy Jerusalem null and void. They also conflict with the previous U.S. Administrations' positions." He added that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement "does not allow the U.S. Administration to disdain the resolutions of international legitimacy concerning Jerusalem, because the agreement does not revoke or weaken these resolutions, which are binding on the U.S. Administration and the Israeli Government," as he said.

Members of U.S. Jewish organizations quoted the president as saying that he "strongly supports the view that Jerusalem—its east part, occupied in 1967, and west part, occupied in 1948—should remain 'unified' and the capital of the Hebrew state."

He pledged that his administration would resist any attempt to consider the east part of the city, which has an Arab character, to be part of the occupied Arab territories. This is what Washington refused to approve of in Security Council Resolution 904 condemning the Israeli massacre of al-Ibrahimi Mosque worshipers. Khalid, who is also member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is opposed to the declaration of principles agreement and the peace negotiations with Israel, urged the "influential leaderships in the PLO and the Arab states concerned with the negotiations to suspend the bilateral negotiations and the multilateral committees until the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration announce their respect for the resolutions of international legitimacy related to the Arab Palestinian-Israeli conflict and their commitment to the negotiation process on the basis of these resolutions."

Fatah Central Committee Discusses Threat to Unity

PM2803082094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Mar 94 p3

[Report by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi: "Unannounced Fatah Central Committee Meeting Discusses Issues Threatening the Movement's Future"]

[Text] Tunis—Fatah's Central Committee has been holding meetings over the past 48 hours, despite a lack of quorum, to discuss serious internal issues threatening the movement's unity.

Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The meetings were called by Fatah Central Committee Members 'Abbas Zaki and Muhammad Jihad after a statement was issued attacking them vehemently and crudely criticizing their conduct and personal lives. That statement was issued several days ago in Tunis and faxed to PLO offices and departments. It contained expressions contrary to the general ethics and the spirit of amity which had governed past differences.

The sources said that the statement was not signed and concluded with the phrase "this is the first in a series of scandals to be published later on." They added that one of 'Arafat's advisers deported from the occupied territory might be behind it. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that during these meetings, held in extreme secrecy, 'Abbas Zaki and Muhammad Jihad threatened to take measures unprecedented since the famous secession of Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa] and his group in 1983 which resulted in armed clashes at the time.

Zaki and Jihad blame 'Arafat for what happened, claiming that had he not protected some individuals, they would not have dared commit such folly.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also learned that these meetings coincide with internal Fatah problems, especially in the occupied territory, between the conflicting wings of the movement, some of which have for some time now been rejecting President 'Arafat's appointment of certain individuals in the occupied territory. That prompted a delegation of Fatah members in the occupied territory to go to Tunis to discuss with the leadership these issues and excesses threatening an eruption of armed confrontations.

According to the same information, a large number of Central Committee members have expressed profound resentment of that statement and expressed solidarity with 'Abbas Zaki, Muhammad Jihad, and others including Abu-Ziyad al-Qurbi who were also included in these accusations. They demanded that those who were behind that statement should be exposed and so should their interest in doing such a thing in these critical circumstances when the Central Committee meetings should be concentrating on discussion of the "secret" file pertaining to the resumption of the negotiations on which talks are now being held in Tunis and Cairo without the knowledge of many members, and on the press reports about agreement being discussed in Cairo, which would mean resumption of the negotiations. But there has been no official statement to that effect.

PFLP-GC Claims Murder of Israeli Soldier

JN2503205794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1758 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Text] The Liberation of Land and Man Group of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has issued a statement claiming responsibility for killing a Zionist soldier in Jerusalem on 23 March 1994.

In its statement, the Liberation of Land and Man Group added that it fired bullets from a pistol at an enemy soldier's head in Jerusalem and took his weapon in reply to the holy al-Ibrahim Mosque massacre.

The enemy radio acknowledged the operation, claiming the soldier was a guard who was transferred to the Hadasa hospital where he passed away.

The group pledged to our Palestinian people to continue its operations against the Zionist enemy until the land and man are liberated.

PFLP-GC Issues 2d Communique on Ambushes

JN2603092894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1802 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, has issued a communique subsequent to the military communique it issued on the martyrs of the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque operation that was carried out by the PFLP-GC's commandos on 21 March 1994. Based on information from commandos who returned from the operation, the communique confirms that the operation against the enemy forces targeted 15 Zionist paratroopers and infantrymen from the Engineering Corps.

The communique says: When the enemy patrol arrived at the controlled area, our comrades detonated two explosive devices that resulted in the wounding of all of the patrol's personnel. Afterwards, our comrades ambushed the enemy patrol and showered them with bullets, grenades, and rockets. They took full control of the situation in which the enemy soldiers could not fire a single bullet. Afterwards, fatal bullets were fired at the enemy soldiers who ran away, trampling over their comrades' heads.

More than 30 minutes later, the Zionist enemy sent out military rescue teams to the scene of the battle in order to remove the bodies of their soldiers. The enemy also sent out its tanks and infantry rescue teams to surround and chase our comrades. However, a number of antitank and antipersonnel mines blew up in the faces of the enemy forces, which further increased the enemy's losses.

The enemy admitted that two noncommissioned officers [NCO's] were killed and that three of its soldiers were wounded. As it always does, the enemy tries to hide the

number of its losses for well-known political and moral reasons. Then it attributes the killing of their soldiers to road accidents and other reasons.

The communique continues to say: Hours after the al-'Ayshiyah operation, the enemy radio announced that a truck turned over, killing two soldiers and injuring three others. It later announced that three of its soldiers were injured when a missile exploded by mistake in the same area as the operation. Hours before that, it was announced that an NCO died of his wounds.

We, in the PFLP-GC, stress that the enemy's losses exceed 15 soldiers and tanks—which like to kill women and children, to perpetrate massacres against our defenseless civilians inside Palestine, and to barbarically shell southern Lebanon and the camps inside it.

Through the operations carried out in the past few days, it has been proven that the occupation army is unable to face the mujahidin on the battlefield and that it quickly collapses amid the crying and screaming of its soldiers.

On this brave operation carried out by our heroic comrades in broad daylight, and in view of the sacrifices of our people inside occupied territories and the strikes by the national and Islamic resistances, we, in the PFLP-GC, reaffirm that the option of confrontation and jihad for the sake of liberation and of ousting the Zionist invaders is our one only option. We also reaffirm that the treasonous and capitulatory agreements in Oslo and Cairo will vanish. Moreover, this will also be the fate of the one who signed these agreements as this is the fate of all the treasonous ones in the history of the struggling nations. The massacres being perpetrated against our people inside the occupied territories will only add to our strength, solidity, and determination to continue the jihad until the liberation of land and man.

PFLP, DFLP Denounce U.S. Stance on Jerusalem

JN2603180694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] The joint command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has denounced U.S. President Bill Clinton's position on Jerusalem as a provocative position. The two fronts believe this provocative position reaffirms that the U.S. Administration is continuing to completely take the side of Israel.

In a statement, the joint PFLP-DFLP command added that, therefore, Washington is not qualified to play a neutral role in settling the Arab-Israeli dispute. It called on all concerned Arab parties to end the current talks because the U.S. position undermines the pillars of the peace process.

PFLP: 'Arafat Must Meet Conditions or Quit

JN2903113294 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Mar 94 pp 24, 20

[By Riyad Mansur in Amman]

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has set three basic conditions for 'Arafat's continuing as PLO leader in accordance with a national consensus.

Speaking on behalf of the George Habash-led PFLP, Political Bureau member 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh said the conditions are: admitting failure in assuming his political and national responsibilities, renouncing the Oslo and Cairo agreements, and apologizing to the Palestinian people.

Malluh, who represented the PFLP in the PLO Executive Committee before he withdrew to protest the Madrid conference, told SAWT AL-SHA'b that if 'Arafat fails to meet these conditions he should leave the leadership immediately.

Malluh said 'Arafat now has a last chance to respond to the conditions of the Palestinian national forces, adding that while there is still time left to carry out these conditions, this time is narrowing day after day.

Malluh said the Palestinian opposition is now more confident of its position now, noting that what is taking place in the occupied territory belies the miserable option of the PLO's negotiating wing.

While expressing the Palestinian opposition's confidence in its position, Malluh strongly criticized it for its inability to unify its forces on joint issues and voiced regret for the absence of a unified strategy for these forces.

Malluh said that despite the failure to unify the opposition forces, there is a joint political base represented by opposition to the Oslo and Cairo agreements and the need to continue the intifadah and the struggle against the occupation.

Answering a question, Malluh said the democratic forces have many concerns and that the two fronts' [PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] joint leadership has a unified strategy to face the dangers of the imposed settlement, which is threatening the national cause with liquidation.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Agrees To Maintain Production Ceiling

AU2603173194 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Geneva, March 26 (AFP)—Ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed here Saturday [26 March] to keep their current production ceiling unchanged until year-end, OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto said.

Saudi Arabia thus overruled a bid by Iran and other non-Gulf members, including Indonesia, to reduce the ceiling from its present level of 24.52 million barrels a day (MBD) to bolster weak oil prices, delegates said.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir told reporters "it was the best we could do under the circumstances."

Nazir declined to say what the impact could be on oil prices.

Ahmed Said al-Badi, of the United Arab Emirates, said the decision was a unanimous one and the Libyan minister, Abdalla al-Badri, said he was "not happy" with the outcome.

Nigerian Minister Supports Summit Decisions

AB2803145294 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The minister of petroleum resources, Chief Don Etiebet, has assured Nigerians that the decision of OPEC not to cut oil production would not adversely affect this year's budget. He gave the assurance in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday while answering questions from newsmen shortly after the 12th meeting of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. From Geneva, energy correspondent Alex Udoh reports on the outcome of the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Udoh] In a communique issued at the end of their meeting, the ministers decided to maintain the present overall production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels of crude oil per day for the remaining part of the year 1994. In doing so, they pledged strict adherence to their individual allocated production levels of last year. The OPEC ministers said they would not tolerate any violation of the agreement, pointing out that necessary sanctions would be imposed on defaulting member countries.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Chief Don Etiebet, said Nigeria was in support of the decision reached at the meeting. Chief Etiebet said although Nigeria favored a cut in production as a means to firm up oil prices, that could not be borne in isolation. Chief Etiebet, however, gave detailed explanations on why the decision will not affect Nigeria's present budget.

[Etiebet] [passage indistinct]

[Udoh] Chief Etiebet stated that Nigeria had a [words indistinct] system to maintain a production quota of 1.85 million barrels per day of crude oil allocated to it. [end recording]

OPEC Headquarters Considering Move to Geneva

AU2703151294 Paris AFP in English 1453 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Geneva, March 26 (AFP) [dateline as received]—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is considering moving its headquarters from Vienna to Geneva, an OPEC source said Sunday [27 March].

The source, seeking to clarify conflicting reports in the Swiss and Austrian press, said rumours arose because "we want to have our own headquarters" after 29 years in rented premises in Vienna.

As a result of the rumours, Geneva authorities contacted OPEC with an offer to provide a site for 90 years and help finance construction of a headquarters near the United Nations institutions here, the source explained.

OPEC's secretariat was initially based in Geneva, but was moved to Vienna in 1965 because the Canton of Geneva refused to grant it diplomatic privileges in line with those of UN facilities here.

Qatar meanwhile also said it would offer "everything you want" if the headquarters was moved to the tiny Gulf state, the source said.

The source said Austria, which draws economic benefits of an estimated 50 million dollars a year from OPEC's presence in Vienna, in turn reacted by offering OPEC new terms.

"The situation is still fluid," the source added, saying a written proposal from the Austrians was expected to be discussed by OPEC ministers at their summer conference in Vienna around mid-June.

Algeria

Zeroual Meets With Parties, Organizations

Continues Dialogue

LD2803141494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Head of State Lamine Zeroual is continuing his meetings with the various political parties, national figures, and social and economic organizations. Following the statement issued yesterday by a political party that indicated that the leaders of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] were to participate in the current national dialogue, a source close to the presidency said that this matter was related to a biased interpretation of the content of Zeroual's talks with the various parties that he has received to date.

The same source recalled the content of the statement issued by the presidency on 18 March on the eve of the resumption of the national dialogue. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that Head of State Lamine Zeroual has met to date with the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, the Islamic Society Movement-Hamas, the Ennahda Movement, and the Party of Algerian Renewal [PRA].

Denies Upcoming FIS Meeting

LD2703194694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] A statement by the Islamic Society Movement, Hamas, said that a delegation of the movement, headed by Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah, was received yesterday by Mr. Lamine Zeroual, head of state.

The statement of Hamas considered the meeting as a preparation for future practical meetings. It also said that the meeting was characterized with frankness.

The statement added that the delegation reached an agreement that the aim of the transitional period was to return to the election stage, and that the dialogue would continue and would include the leadership of the dissolved FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] within the framework of respecting the constitution and renouncing violence.

This was the statement of Hamas.

However, sources close to the presidency pointed out that the text of the statement in the part related to the participation of the dissolved FIS in the current national dialogue was nothing more than an interpretation—used for political aims—of the message conveyed by Lamine Zeroual to the various personalities he received until now.

As far as the dialogue was concerned, the source close to the presidency recalled, it would take place within the framework of the statement issued on 18 March.

Comments on Contacts With FIS

NC2903113494 Paris AFP in English 1111 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Algiers, March 29 (AFP)—President Lamine Zeroual has said the government has made "contacts" with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), in an effort to form a transitional forum among the country's political parties.

According to a statement sent to AFP Monday evening by the opposition leftist Ettahaddi party, the president stressed that the "government is now waiting for the FIS to keep its promise to stop terrorism."

The statement did not say what the government may have promised the FIS, which it officially banned in January 1992 after the army intervened to cancel a general election the FIS looked poised to win.

Government dialogue with the banned party has been a point of controversy in recent days, since the Islamic Society Movement (MSI) released a statement, which the government contested, implying that FIS leaders were talking with the government. The MSI is a moderate Islamist rival of the FIS.

According to Ettahaddi, Zeroual "assured that dialogue (with political parties) would not be exclusive," but that he would "leave out any who attack the constitution." He also said that the government would not discuss anything that "is not negotiable."

The goal of the talks, which began last Wednesday, is to form a National Transition Council. The proposed body would have 200 members representing political parties, the government, unions and professional organisations.

The organisation would be a quasi-legislative body in which the FIS would occupy around 40 seats. The council is scheduled to get underway by the end of April.

FLN Group Urges National Dialogue

LD2803230294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Continuing the national dialogue, the head of state, Mr. Lamine Zeroual, received during the past two days a FLN [National Liberation Front] party delegation led by Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, the party's secretary general; he also received the leader of the Ettahadi movement Mr. Hachemi Cherif. Here are more details from Zohra Zemit.

[Zemit] At the meeting which brought together the head of state and the FLN party delegation, the latter conveyed to the head of state a letter of proposals on the means for making the national dialogue successful and overcoming the current political crisis.

The letter, a copy of which was received by the radio today, has pointed out that the chances, albeit very small, for making the national dialogue a success were still there. The letter hoped that the national dialogue, called for by the head of state, would not be another missed opportunity. Consequently, the letter added, that the FLN political

bureau believed that the state, represented in the person of Mr. Lamine Zeroual, was called upon to take firm measures which would create chances for making such a dialogue a success, and would bring about a political relaxation which would allow the people as well as the rest of political and social forces to continue the dialogue, to get involved in it, and to prepare themselves to accept its outcome.

The letter pointed out, furthermore, that the people were called upon this year to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1 November revolution and to be loyal to such a great revolution. The latter would require, however, the generation which fought it, including the head of state Lamine Zeroual, to mobilize itself to put an end to the confrontation between the Algerians, which has nearly blown away everything such a revolution has achieved.

The letter concluded by asserting that the FLN political bureau was convinced that a serious and a profound dialogue between all Algerians, without any seclusion, would bring back hope to the people and would overcome the serious and complicated problems which have been threatening the country's stability, security, progress and independence.

The Ettahaddi movement has issued a statement today, after its Coordinator Mr. Hachemi Cherif was received by the head of state Lamine Zeroual, in which it stressed its known stances towards the situation and the ways to deal with the crisis. With regard to the latter, it considers that redrawing the political map and the emergence of a new political class, on the basis of the project of modernization, were a pressing need for bringing about the rupture with all the methods and practices of the past.

The Ettahaddi movement considered that the transition leading to a modern state of law compelled the country to embark upon radical structural reforms. This need goes hand in hand with the complete elimination of terrorism and fighting extremism relentlessly on all fronts, in the society and the institutions of the republic.

FLN Rules Out Participation

LD2803220394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The FLN [National Liberation Front] has sent a message to Lamine Zeroual, the head of state, in which it says that it rules out participation in any nominal dialogue, but remains committed to serious and deep dialogue with those who represent the authority of the state and all effective political forces.

The FLN said that the invitation of parties that emerged through the latest elections, regardless of differences, to a joint and open meeting was pressing and urgent. This was an excerpt of the message addressed by the FLN to the head of state.

Russian Embassy Employee Found Slain

LD2803194094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The security services have announced also that a 41-old Russian national, Konstantin Kokoshin, was murdered in Saoula in Tipaza province. The security services have pointed out the body of the Russian national was discovered around 1100 hours today inside a Toyota car, which belonged to the Russian embassy, parked at a bus station at Saoula.

The security services have added that their investigation following the discovery of the murder have enabled them to eliminate four armed elements and to recover three automatic revolvers and a sawn-off shotgun.

The initial investigation have established, however, that those killed were involved in the murder of the Russian national and the foreign ministry official, who was murdered at Bourdj el Kiffan this morning.

Retired Brigadier Named as Adviser to Head of State

LD2603200394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Mohamed Betchine has been appointed minister adviser to the head of state.

Mohamed Betchine was born on 28 November 1934 in Constantine. He was a member of the National Liberation Army and a retired brigadier in the National Popular Army. He is a member of the National Council of Mujahidin.

Betchine holds a diploma from the national school of artillery and the multi-weaponry high school in Russia. He pursued graduate research in law and occupied a number of positions in the National Popular Army until his retirement in August 1990. He is married and the father of six children.

LA NATION To Cease Publication 'This Week'

LD2903140594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The newspaper LA NATION has decided to cease publication at the end of this week as it is unable to continue its editorial line because of the current circumstances through which the country is passing.

This was stated in an article published by the newspaper, which is issued in French and employs about 40 people, including about 15 journalists.

Egypt

Pakistani Justice Minister Views Mubarak Meeting

NC2703155594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received the Pakistani justice minister at the Presidential Office today. Minister of Justice Counselor Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr attended.

Counselor Sayf-al-Nasr said after the meeting that the Pakistani justice minister handed President Mubarak a written message from the Pakistani president. He added that the Justice Ministry is holding talks with the Pakistani justice minister on signing a judicial cooperation agreement between the two countries for the exchange of criminals. He expressed his hope that an accord will be signed during this visit to combat all forms of crime and terrorism and to establish rights, justice, security, and the rule of law.

For his part, the Pakistani justice minister praised the strong relations between the Pakistani and Egyptian peoples and presidents. He noted that Egypt has a pioneering standing among the Arab countries and within the Islamic Conference Organization. He said that both countries are bound by common goals, especially since Pakistan and Egypt are standing up against terrorist activities everywhere. He added that Pakistan has deported over 2,000 terrorists who had entered the country during the Afghan war.

He expressed his hope for increased cooperation between Egypt and Pakistan, especially in economics, and for an increase in higher-level visits by the two countries' officials.

Oman, UAE Leaders Send Message to Mubarak

NC2703134294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received this morning at the Presidential Palace Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Omani ambassador to Cairo attended the meeting.

Following the session, Bin-'Alawi said that he conveyed an oral message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus to President Mubarak. He added that President Mubarak gave him a written message for Sultan Qabus about various issues. The Omani minister said that President Mubarak and Sultan Qabus agree on various issues of common concern. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak also received this morning Rashid 'Abdallah, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Minister 'Amr Musa and the UAE ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

Following the session, the UAE minister said that he handed to President Mubarak a message from his brother UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The message deals with the brotherly ties between the two presidents and countries, The UAE minister said.

Concerning the three UAE islands occupied by Iran, the UAE foreign minister said that the UAE suggested that the problem be resolved through negotiations, but its appeals have so far been ignored by Iran. Asked if that issue could be referred to the International Court of Justice, Minister 'Abdallah said that the UAE wants to exhaust bilateral channels, appeals, and regional and international calls by such forums as the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League, before resorting to the International Court of Justice.

Opposition Party Warns Against Lifting Boycott on Israel

NC2603205694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—The Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party has warned against lifting the Arab boycott on Israel.

A statement issued today by the party's Central Secretariat says that with the continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories and the ongoing Israeli policies of settlement building and violence, oppression, and killing against the Palestinian people, the boycott is the only remaining weapon in the hands of Arabs and Palestinians.

The statement says that the Arab League's involvement in lifting any part of the boycott against Israel at this time, before a just and a comprehensive peace is achieved, will represent a harsh judgment on the future of the Arab League and on the conduct of Arab governments.

Speaker Addresses IPU on Nonproliferation, Somalia

NC2503135494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur today called for an objective stance to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. He called on Israel to sign the nonproliferation treaty, emphasizing that Israel must believe that peace is the real and lasting guarantee.

Delivering Egypt's speech to the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] meeting in Paris today, Dr. Surur condemned the Hebron massacre and the aggression against unarmed Palestinians. He expressed deep concern at the hazards threatening peace as a result of such incidents, demanding effctive guarantees to maintain security in the occupied territories.

The People's Assembly speaker called on the international community to be firm and resolute on the Bosnian problem to avoid the spreading of clashes to other areas in the Balkans. He called also for encouraging an African role in ending the civil war tragedy in Somalia, particularly after the withdrawal of foreign troops. He called on the Somalis to prepare themselves for shouldering the responsibility.

Delegation Returns

NC2703094994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] An Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur returned

to Cairo last night, having participated in the 91st session of the Interparliamentary Union, which was held in Paris.

During the session, which lasted a week, the Egyptian delegation urged protection for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories, calling for a halt to Israel's illegitimate practices against the Palestinians. The delegation also denounced Serbian atrocities against Bosnian Muslims, calling on the international community to take action to end the atrocities.

Islamist Dissident Confesses in TV Interview

NC2803144494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA)—'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi, a dissident element from the terrorist al-Shawqiyun group, has exposed the corrupt thought of the extremist terrorist groups that have misled many youths under false claims not consistent with the Islamic religion's teachings.

'Abd-al-Baqi described these extremist terrorist groups as "a band of thieves, criminals, and mercenaries who use religion as a cover for their acts and who claim that differences among them mainly revolve around the interpretation of the shar'iah.

In an interview with Egyptian television last night, 'Abd-al-Baqi, 33, who was born in al-Fayyum, related his bitter experience with the various elements of terrorism and extremism over 17 years spent moving from one governorate to another calling for extremist thought and recruiting many youths. He said his relationship with the terrorist groups began in 1977. He was exercising in a sports hall inside a mosque in al-Fayyum. Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman was chairman of a charitable society affiliated with the mosque. He then became acquainted with the members of this society with the aim of understanding Islam and studying religious issues.

Repentant 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi related his relationship with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, describing him as a "dissolute preacher and power hungry." 'Abd-al-Rahman would answer questions without submitting evidence or proof. Most of his fatwas were governed by personal whims. He claimed that he was infallible and would issue orders without explaining who vested this authority in him.

'Abd-al-Baqi noted that on joining these groups he was affected by several books he read, including one entitled "The Four Terms" by al-Mawdudi and another entitled "Rules of Propagation," which calls for seizing funds by force and by any other means. After reading this book, he began carrying out armed robberies of jewelry shops, stealing cars, dismantling them, and selling them as spare parts. He explained that he adopted terrorism after reading a book entitled "Milestones" by Sayyid Qutb. He said the books calls for changing the regime by force.

'Abd-al-Baqi said he recruited many youths and inculcated them with corrupt ideas. These youths later became leaders of terrorist operations. They included Muhammad al-Aswani, Khamis Muslim, and Muhammad Sa'd, who carried out assassinations, armed robberies of jewelry shops, and attacks on Central Security Forces camps.

'Abd-al-Baqi explained that it was very easy to recruit youths because they were prepared for this and had no legal or religious background. It was easy to influence them.

He said that mingling with the terrorist groups he noticed that marriages within the groups took place haphazardly. These marriages were documented solely for security reasons, not because this was an important religious duty. He explained that some of these groups used to blaspheme [takfir] husbands to separate them from their wives who would then be forced to join these groups and marry group members. He noted that some wives would marry more than once without the knowledge of their first husbands who were declared blasphemous. The marriage would sometimes take place a few days after the wife got a divorce and without waiting for the legal three-month period.

Repentant extremist 'Abd-al-Baqi said in his interview with Egyptian television that the terrorist groups have nothing to do with religion. He described the members of the so-called al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] as having no religion or morals. He said that members of the al-Shawqiyun Organization are a group of thieves and criminals and of the al-Takfir Group [Repudiation and Renunciation] are a group of immoral people who commit adultery and prostitution under the cover of Islam.

'Abd-al-Baqi then discussed the financing of these groups. He said it took place through armed robbery. The money netted from these robberies was spent on members to meet their housing and marriage needs.

He also noted that weapons were stolen from village houses in Lower and Upper Egypt.

'Abd-al-Baqi said the purpose of making his confession is to expose these groups and show the falsehood of their ideas. He added: We found no one to correct our ideas so we stuck to our false beliefs.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Kafi Banned From Sermons, Travel

NC2803112094 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 23 Mar 94 pp 1, 13

[Text] The Egyptian film "The Terrorist" has created sensitivity and often bickering outside Egypt, because it deals with a very controversial topic, the Islamic fundamentalist movement.

In Egypt, the confrontation between the regime and the "Islamists," while not reaching the level of violence witnessed in Algeria, has assumed greater dimensions to include every level, including the cinema, television, and arts in general.

In addition to the scenes of commotion and pandemonium in the streets surrounding the nine movie theaters that

began screening the film a week ago, Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi has announced that new television serials will be screened soon in which "repentant" Islamists will denounce the "corruption of the extremist thought."

Acting on a presidential decision, the Egyptian authorities have banned Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi from delivering sermons at Asad Ibn-Furat Mosque in al-Duqqi [a Cairo suburb]. The Egyptian authorities placed the mosque under the supervision of the Ministry of Awqaf and banned Shaykh 'Abd-al-Kafi from travelling.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Kafi was behind the campaign to persuade movie and theater actresses to wear the veil. A secular campaign against him has increased his popularity such that thousands of people pray behind him every week.

The security forces surrounded Asad Ibn-al-Furat on Friday [18 March]. The worshippers were surprised to see the director of al-Awqaf in al-Jizah ascending the pulpit to deliver the Friday sermon.

A colonel from the State Security Intelligence Department went to the house of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Kafi and informed him of the presidential decision to ban him from delivering sermons or giving religious classes at that mosque or any other.

The day before yesterday Maj. Gen. al-Alfi declared: "Many of these Islamists have understood the false calls of the extremist terrorist elements and have returned to society to resume their life in a normal way." He promised to screen recorded television interviews with some of the "repenters."

Egyptian state television has given Muslim religious men the chance to appear on its screen. A few weeks ago, it began screening a program criticizing the ideas and practices of the "extremist" Islamists.

Hasan al-Hillawi, a former Islamist leader, issued a statement the day before yesterday calling on the extremist organizations to abandon terrorism.

The film "The Terrorist" was written by well-known novelist Lenin al-Ramli and was directed by Nadir Jalal. The main role is played by popular comedian 'Adil Imam.

The streets surrounding the nine Cairo movie theaters that began screening the film a week ago have witnessed scenes of commotion and congestion. These movie theaters have witnessed pandemonium among the audience.

The security forces have imposed a tight guard on these movie houses in case they are targeted for attack by the Islamic groups. The film, its title, theme, and action, rejects Islamic group acts. Film analysts say the film earned $200,000 during the first three days of its screening, a record figure for the Egyptian film industry.

The film is accompanied by a large adverstising campaign, which includes huge placards showing the "terrorist" 'Adil Imam bearded and carrying a pistol.

Contract Signed To Make Parts for F-16 Fighters

NC2503121994 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Mar 94 p 11

[Excerpt] The Aircraft Factory of the Arab Industrialization Organization has concluded a supplementary contract with the U.S. Lockheed Corporation, which manufactures the F-16 fighters, according to which more of the aircraft's parts will be manufactured in Egypt. The $21 million contract is valid for five years and is renewable. The initial and supplementary contracts provide for manufacturing parts for 80 F-16's for Lockheed.

Last month, the Aircraft Factory began production of the equipment needed for manufacturing parts of the U.S. F-16's. Delivery of the first manufactured parts will begin early next year. [passage omitted].

Libya

JANA Views French Foreign Minister on Lockerbie

LD2503205894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Text] The French foreign minister has spoken to Arab press correspondents in Paris about what is called the Lockerbie case, and called for what he termed specific measures in this respect. Commenting on this, JANA's international affairs editor says: The Great Jamahiriyah is the one that adopted the initiative and all the measures for the trial of the two suspects, the latest of which was when it called for the trial of the two suspects before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, and the implementation of the Montreal convention.

However, the western governments do not want such a trial because the two suspects are Libyans who have no case to answer, they are not accused of anything specific, and there is no evidence against them. If they are tried in accordance with the law, the West will be exposed and the fallacy of their evidence will be confirmed.

The editor concludes: All the suggestions put forward by Libya in this respect are specific and practical suggestions.

Libya's Withdrawal From Aouzou Strip Viewed

Minister Affirms Compliance

LD2903000294 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Libya demanded the implementation of the agreement it signed with Chad in 1989 in the Algerian capital on the Aozou Strip and at the same time affirmed its intention to withdraw from that strip.

The agreement stipulates for the exchange of POW's following the war which broke out between the two countries over the Aozou Strip.

The Libyan foreign affairs minister affirmed his country's compliance with the decision of the International Court of Justice, which acknowledged Chad's claim over the Aozou Strip.

The Libyan official said in a letter he sent to the UN secretary general that Libya did not object to the decision and had no prior or subsequent conditions.

The Libyan foreign affairs minister mentioned that his country was only interested in reaching a final settlement to the Aozou Strip by peaceful means and logical practices. He said that required the implementation of the Algiers agreement.

The Libyan official pointed out that Chad insisted on obtaining a timetable on the withdrawal of the Libyan civilian and military administration from the Aozou Strip before studying the preparation of a mechanism for implementing and setting up committees for this purpose.

It is worth mentioning that the talks which started between the two sides since the beginning of this month have brought no results whatsoever.

OAU Asked To Monitor Events

NC2703081194 Paris AFP in English 0000 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Paris, March 27 (AFP)—Libya is pledged to comply with a court order to quit the disputed Aouzou Strip, but wants the Organisation of African Unity [OAU] to supervise the pullout, Libya's foreign secretary told AFP Saturday [27 March].

Sa'd Mujbir [an official of the Libyan parliament] said Libya had accepted the February 3 ruling by the International Court of Justice in The Hague in favour of Chad's territorial claims to the Aouzou Strip, which Libya has occupied for the past 20 years.

"There's no question of reneging," he said. "But we want to withdraw within the rules in such a way as to avoid future conflict, preserving the dignity of all parties."

He said the OAU should act fast to supervise the withdrawal, saying Libya had asked current OAU chairman Egypt to put together a team of observers to carry out the task.

He rejected claims by Ndjamena that Libya was setting preconditions for a withdrawal, and denied that Libya was sending reinforcements to the territory.

Bani Walid Violence Protests Conviction of 'Agents'

NC2703114294 Paris AFP in English 1022 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (AFP)—Violent protests broke out in a Libyan town after calls for the execution of 55 army officers linked to a rebellion, an opposition leader said here Sunday.

Guards shot and wounded several protesters who smashed and set fire to public buildings on March 17 in Bani Walid, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) southeast of Tripoli, Muhammad Fayiz Jibril told AFP.

Protests erupted after Libyan television broadcast "false confessions extracted under torture from army officers" implicated in last October's rebellion in Bani Walid, said Jibril, Cairo representative for the Libyan National Salvation Front.

"Members of the Libyan regime called for the execution of these officers, who admitted under torture to being agents of the United States. Bani Walid residents were outraged over the call for executions and the use of torture," he said.

"The residents then smashed and set fire to the offices of the revolutionary and information committees" set up by al-Qadhdhafi, he said.

"Agents of the revolutionary committees holed up in the offices opened fire on the demonstrators, wounding several of them," he added.

Jibril asked Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Arab foreign ministers meeting in the Egyptian capital to intervene to prevent al-Qadhdhafi from "executing the 55 officers."

Authorities Deny Clashes

LD2803084394 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Libyan authorities have denied reports from the Cairo representative of the opposition Libyan National Salvation Front claiming that several people were shot and wounded on 17 March in Bani Walid, 150 km south of Tripoli, after they attacked public buildings. According to this opposition leader, the demonstrations broke out after Libyan television broadcast false confessions extracted under torture from army officers implicated in a military rebellion in Bani Walid last October.

According to the director of Libya's foreign information service, the claims of this opposition leader are hardly credible, given his collaboration with foreign information services, in particular the CIA.

Aide Criticizes Economic Embargo, Sanctions

PM2503145894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Mar 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Official Expects Sanctions To Be Toughened Next Month"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Dr. Madani Abu-al-Duwayrat, representative of the Libyan Solidarity Committee, has criticized the continuation of the economic embargo imposed on his country. He said that Libya responded to UN Security Council Resolution 731 and

made "numerous initiatives" to end the Lockerbie issue, "but the United States and France continue to adopt the policy of escalation against Libya."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in Cairo, Abu-al-Duwayrat expected sanctions against his country to be toughened in April so as to include the freezing of Libyan assets abroad and a ban on oil imports. He said that toughening the sanctions would not cause Libya to change its position "or abandon its sovereignty." He pointed out that his country has expressed willingness to secure a "fair trial" for the two suspects in the case of the U.S. plane blown up over Lockerbie (Scotland in 1988). He urged the Western states to "return the problem to its legal character, instead of politicizing it." [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Foreign Ministry Source on Ties With GCC, Sudan

LD2803163894 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1528 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Kuwait, 28 Mar—Kuwait today stressed that the brotherly relations between the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council (Persian Gulf)] states are deep and strong.

A responsible source in the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry denied that the first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, had indicated during a press conference in Cairo yesterday that the subject of some GCC states' relations with the Iraqi regime would be discussed by the council.

In a statement to Kuna, the source said "that Shaykh Sabah had explained in reply to a question in this regard during the above-mentioned press conference that diplomatic relations between these states and Iraq had not been severed at all so that they could be restored" and that this was exactly what Sabah had said.

On the other hand, the source expressed his regret at Sudan's continued failure to condemn the Iraqi regime's aggression against Kuwait and its failure to demand that Iraq should abide by the legitimate UN resolutions related to that aggression.

The source said that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's meeting in Cairo yesterday with Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu Salih was confined to a discussion of the item on the agenda of the Arab League meeting which was concerned with the southern Sudan.

Here the source was commenting on what Radio Monte Carlo had broadcast quoting a Sudanese diplomat in Cairo who said that the meeting had dealt with the subject of what he claimed to be one hundred thousand Sudanese who had been working in Kuwait.

Oman

Pakistan's Bhutto Arrives for 3-Day Visit

Comments Upon Arrival

BK2703065594 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, was given a warm welcome when she flew into Muscat on a three-day official visit to Oman. Special representative of Sultan Qabus, (Sa'id Ghoyn Bin-Shahab al-Sa'id) greeted the prime minister and members of the entourage at Muscat airport. National anthems of the two countries were played. The prime minister inspected a guard of honor. A large number of dignitaries present to welcome her were introduced to the prime minister.

Later, the leaders of the two countries had informal chat at the VVIP [Very Very Important Person] room of the airport. In a statement, the prime minister said Pakistan regards Oman as an important neighbor with whom it has traditionally enjoyed close and cordial relations based on history, common religion, cultural heritage, convergence of perception on major regional and international issues, and mutually beneficial cooperation in all fields. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said she will brief Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id on recent developments in our region and drew his attention to the latest situation in Kashmir. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said bilateral relations between Pakistan and Oman are progressing steadily for the mutual benefit of our two countries. She hoped that her visit will be instrumental in giving impetus to our relations and shall lay a base for accelerated cooperation in many spheres.

Pakistan Television's correspondent Abdul Khaleq Sargarna said during the talks between Sultan Qabus and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto, relations with the Gulf countries, the Central Asian Republics and the possibility of cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization—ECO—and the Gulf countries are also expected to come up for discussion.

Talks With Sultan Detailed

BK2803111994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Pakistan and Oman have called for an early solution to the Kashmir problem and an end to the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. During detailed discussions in Salalah on a wide range of issues, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Omani Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id reviewed the latest situations in occupied Kashmir, Afghanistan, Palestine, and Bosnia, and reacted strongly to the atrocities being committed by Indian forces against the innocent Kashmiris. Expressing serious concern over the situation in Kashmir, Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id stressed the need for a solution to the Kashmir problem, which is in the best interests of both India and Pakistan.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto apprised the Omani sultan of the latest situation in occupied Kashmir, saying Kashmir is the core issue between India and Pakistan and it needs to be resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions. As a first step in this direction, human rights violations in occupied Kashmir should be stopped to create a congenial atmosphere for meaningful negotiations. India, she said, should allow people from other countries to visit occupied Kashmir and assess the situation. The prime minister reiterated that an Islamic Conference Organization mission should be allowed to visit occupied Kashmir.

During the talks, Benazir Bhutto suggested a more frequent exchange of views between Pakistan and Oman on regional and international issues. The two countries should lay the foundations for wider economic cooperation because there are many areas in which they can increase cooperation. Potential areas of cooperation include the delimitation of the maritime boundary; defense production; a gas pipeline project; joint ventures to establish

chemical fertilizer plants; a ferry service between Karachi, Gwadar, and Oman; and the export of manpower from Pakistan to Oman.

Radio Pakistan special correspondent Abdul Aziz Khan reports in his dispatch from Salalah that during their talks at the (Qasr-i al-Bosin), Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id discussed several agreements. The talks were held in the atmosphere of trust and goodwill that is traditionally found between the two neighboring countries. Our correspondent says the two leaders attached special importance to the expansion of fraternal relations between Pakistan and Oman and also reviewed the security arrangements in the Gulf and the current status of the Economic Cooperation Organization.

'Joint Communique' Issued

JN2803152694 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Mar 94

["Text" of a joint communique issued in Muscat on 28 March]

[Text] At the invitation of the government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, Her Excellency Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, paid an official visit to the Sultanate during the period 26-28 March 1994. She was accompanied by her husband Asif Ali Zardari, who is a member of the National Assembly, and a high-level delegation, including His Excellency Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, minister of foreign affairs; His Excellency Anwar Saifullah Khan, minister of petroleum and natural resources; His Excellency Ghulam Akbar Lasi, minister of state for manpower and labor; His Excellency Shahid Hasan Khan, special assistant to the prime minister; members of the Pakistani National Assembly; and senior officials.

The prime minister was accorded a warm and hospitable reception that mirrors the spirit of the sincere and strong brotherhood between the two countries connected by ties of religion, history, and culture.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received Her Excellency Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto and held lengthy talks on strengthening bilateral ties. Sultan Qabus and Mrs. Bhutto exchanged views regarding regional and international issues of mutual interest, including Kashmir, Palestine, and Bosnia.

The two sides paid special attention to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and asserted the need to find ways to hold talks to resolve the conflict over Kashmir in accordance with the aspirations and desires of the people of Kashmir. The two sides noted the need to provide an appropriate atmosphere and circumstance for purposeful talks.

The two sides reviewed the peace process in the Middle East after condemning the Hebron incident. They expressed their continuous support for the Middle East peace talks. The two sides denounced the Hebron massacre and expressed the hope that such events will not obstruct the progress of the Middle East peace process. The two sides expressed the need to settle the Middle East problem in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and called for complete protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territory at the present time.

The two sides expressed their pain over the atrocities perpetrated against the Muslim people in Bosnia, reiterating their legitimate right to self-defense. The two sides called for urgent measures to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as for humanitarian and development aid to end the suffering of the people in that friendly country.

A number of ministers and ranking officials in the Sultanate met with the prime minister, exchanged views with her, and discussed ways and methods to give momentum to joint cooperation in the service of both countries. Official talks were also held to discuss the various aspects of cooperation between the two countries under the chairmanship of His Excellency Maqbul Bin-'Ali Bin-Sultan, minister of trade and industry, and His Excellency Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Pakistani minister of foreign affairs. The talks were attended on the Omani side by His Excellency Muhammad Bin-Zubayr Bin-'Ali, his majesty the sultan's adviser for economic planning; His Highness Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry for political affairs; the chief of the Asian Desk at the Foreign Ministry; and his excellency the Omani ambassador to Pakistan. For Pakistan, the talks were attended by His Excellency Anwar Saifullah Khan, minister of petroleum and natural resources; His Excellency (Hasan Haqqani), information assistant to the prime minister; and (Thahib Sa'id Amin), secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and (Jasid Mas'ud), secretary of trade.

Pakistan and the Sultanate agreed to work together to strengthen regional cooperation for peace and security. In order to reach understanding on bilateral, regional, and international issues, the two countries agreed to hold bilateral political consultations at least once a year on the level of the foreign ministers, with meetings alternating between Muscat and Islamabad.

The two countries also decided to sign agreements in various fields of cooperation after studying proposals on cooperation by the competent sides in both countries. Within this framework, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Omani Chamber of Industry and Trade and the Pakistani Federation of Trade and Industry Chambers.

Her Excellency Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan, thanked His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id for the cordial reception she and her accompanying delegation were accorded. The Pakistani prime minister conveyed an invitation from the president of Pakistan to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to visit Pakistan. His majesty has accepted the invitation and a date will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

News Conference Held

JN2803153794 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Report on a news conference held by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Muscat on 28 March; from the "Correspondents' Dispatches" program; passages within quotation marks in English]

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto left the Sultanate today following a three-day visit, during which she held talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God preserve him, and with the officials in the Sultanate. Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held a news conference today, the last day of her visit, before her departure. During the news conference she spoke about the results of her visit to the country, as well as other regional and international issues. At the outset of the news conference, the Pakistani prime minister expressed her sincerest appreciation for His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God watch over him, and for the Omani people, for the warm welcome and hospitality she and her delegation were accorded during their visit to the country.

"I'd like to start by expressing my appreciation to his majesty, the government, and the people of Oman, for giving us such a warm welcome during the visit to your country."

The prime minister said that her visit to the country is of a special significance, because we, in Pakistan, attach special importance to our relations with the Sultanate, especially since the Sultanate and Pakistan are geographically close to each other, in addition to the fact that they have historical relations, she added.

Regarding her talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, Mrs. Bhutto said:

"While I was here in Oman I had the opportunity of not only discussing the areas that there can be economic cooperation, but also hearing his majesty on the world situation and the regional situation."

The prime minister said: My visit to the Sultanate was not only to discuss economic relations, but also to hear his majesty's views on the international situation in general, and the regional situation in particular.

Mrs. Bhutto added that she had discussed with his majesty the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, and that she had briefed him on Pakistan's stand toward the issue, and on her country's call for reaching a peaceful settlement of this crisis through international means. The two sides also discussed the Afghan issue, the Yugoslav crisis, and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mrs. Bhutto said that his majesty briefed her on the situation in this region, that she felt that the visit was very useful to her, and that this visit will be followed by other visits on the ministerial level.

Mrs. Bhutto invited his majesty to visit Pakistan where he will be received with the same warm welcome and hospitality from the Pakistani people.

Further on News Conference

BK2803162994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto says Pakistan cannot close its eyes to developments taking place in Kashmir and this is the right time for a solution to this problem because Kashmir has now turned into Asia's Bosnia. Addressing a crowded news conference in Muscat before her departure for home at the conclusion of her three-day visit to Oman, she said the problem should be resolved in accordance with international law and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. Bhutto said she also briefed Sultan Qabus on the situation that has arisen on the Indian subcontinent as a result of the Jammu and Kashmir problem. She also informed Sultan Qabus of the selective tyranny and oppression carried out against the people during the struggle in occupied Kashmir.

The prime minister thanked Oman for its support to Pakistan on the Kashmir problem and also requested Sultan Qabus to assist in lessening tension in the subcontinent because Oman has good relations with India. She urged the Sultan to persuade India to stop human rights violations and strive for a political settlement of this issue. Bhutto added it is regrettable that India is not only criticizing her government but also attacking her personally, which reflects that the present government has perturbed India on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, which was not done by any previous Government of Pakistan. The prime minister said she held negotiations on Jammu and Kashmir with complete firmness, because Pakistan is really interested in the establishment of peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir and believes that the time is ripe for settling this issue in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. She said we have struggled for human rights in Pakistan, and, hence, we cannot overlook the developments taking place in Jammu and Kashmir. We cannot close our eyes to the fact that 600,000 Indian troops are stationed in Jammu and Kashmir. India has increased its defense budget by 20 percent within a span of one year, which is directly related to the attempts to crush the struggle going on in occupied Kashmir. Pakistan cannot also ignore the fact that women are being molested in occupied Kashmir.

The prime minister described her visit to Oman as very fruitful and expressed the hope that her visit will lead to exchange of visits at the ministerial levels. The two countries have the potential to work together to meet the requirements of the Pakistani markets and of the Gulf and Central Asian markets.

Benazir Bhutto apprised the Omani Sultan of Pakistan's defense capabilities and said the two countries can find new avenues of cooperation in this field. She announced a gift of three Mashshaq trainer aircraft to Oman as an expression of the gesture of friendship. Later, addressing a

large number of leading businessmen, the prime minister said Oman is the closest neighbor of Pakistan which offers vast opportunities for investment. [passage omitted]

Joint Statement on Bhutto Visit

BK2903061494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Pakistan and Oman have affirmed the necessity of finding ways for meaningful negotiations to solve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. In a joint statement issued at the end of the three-day official visit of the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, to Oman, the two sides also stressed the need for creating the right environment and condition for meaningful talks to resolve the problem. The prime minister and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id held in-depth discussions on strengthening bilateral relations and shared views on regional and international issues of common interest and concern, including Kashmir, Palestine, and Bosnia.

The two sides expressed their continued support for the Middle East peace negotiations, condemned the al-Khalil incident, and hoped that the peace process in the Middle East would not be hampered by such incidents. They called for full protection of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. About Bosnia, Pakistan and Oman called for urgent measures to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as humanitarian and relief measures to alleviate the sufferings of the people of that fraternal country.

The statement says the ministers of the two countries exchanged views and examined ways for advancing bilateral cooperation for mutual interest and benefit of their people. The two countries agreed to work together for promoting regional cooperation in the interests of peace and security. They agreed to sign agreements in several fields for cooperation. One such agreement for cooperation between Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry was already signed.

The prime minister conveyed the invitation of the president of Pakistan to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to pay a state visit which was accepted by the sultan.

Muscat Invites Israel to Water Committee Meeting

PM2803105094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Mar 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani: "Israeli Experts To Participate in Meeting Hosted by Muscat"]

[Excerpt] Muscat—Well-informed Omani sources have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the Omani Government has officially sent an invitation to the Israeli Government to attend the upcoming meeting of the water committee arising from the multilateral negotiations, scheduled to be held in Muscat on 17 April.

The sources said that the invitations have been sent to Israel and the other states participating in the committee's proceedings, in accordance with the tradition pursued in the Madrid formula, which stipulated that the invitation should be sent by the state hosting the meeting and the cosponsors of the peace conference (United States and Russia). The sources told AL-HAYAH that Israel has also been invited among a limited and select group of states to attend a preliminary meeting at expert level to be held in Muscat on 5 April.

The sources pointed out that Israel was among the states that participated in the researches and proposals which the Sultanate of Oman had been assigned to prepare within a comprehensive study on ways of developing sea water desalination technology. The experts meeting will meet to discuss the stage the study has reached so far. The sources said that this "distinguished" participation by Israel and other states in the region, especially neighboring Arab states like Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians, is a natural thing because these parties are closely concerned with the issues to be discussed. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Receives Oman's Bin-'Alawi, Qabus Message

JN2803202794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. The Omani minister conveyed to the president a message from his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on the cordial fraternal relations exerted [as heard] by the brothers in Oman, particularly His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, to bring viewpoints closer together, to contain the political crisis, and to safeguard Yemeni unity and stability.

The president and the Omani minister reviewed bilateral relations and aspects of fraternal cooperation. They also reviewed regional and Arab developments and issues of common interest. The brother president praised the efforts exerted by the brothers in Oman and their support for our people to overcome the challenges imposed by the political crisis and its regrettable repercussions. He also praised the efforts exerted by the Omani military committee within the joint military committee and the success it rendered in halting and containing the military deterioration.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah, foreign minister; brother 'Awad Bin-Mahfuz Bakathir, ambassador of Oman to our country; and Staff Major General 'Abd-al-'Alim Bin-Mustahil, head of the Omani team to the joint military committee.

Al-'Attas Confers With Omani State Minister

JN2803215894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas this evening received in Aden, the economic and commercial capital, His Excellency brother Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs in the fraternal Sultanate of Oman, and his accompanying delegation. The Omani participants in the Joint Military Committee and some of the Yemeni members of the committee attended.

They discussed issues of cooperation and relations between the two sisterly countries and ways to enhance and promote them. The meeting also touched on the work of the Joint Military Committee and the results achieved in the recent phase.

Brother al-'Attas expressed the Yemeni leadership's great appreciation for the committee's efforts and for the results of its work. He stressed the need to continue the committee's work under the current political circumstances.

Al-'Attas also expressed the political leadership's readiness to cooperate with the committee in order to overcome the difficulties that are bound to obstruct all tasks assigned to the committee. [passage omitted]

Yemeni Official on Cabinet Session

JN2803201294 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Jabir 'Afif, member of the Yemeni Political Forces Dialogue Committee, in Aden, by political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, in the studio, on 28 March—live or recorded]

[Text] [Dhiyab] Mr. Ahmad, the Yemeni Council of Ministers met in Aden yesterday. Can you shed some light on the results of this meeting?

['Afif] First of all, I would like to thank you, especially His Majesty King Husayn and the people and Government of fraternal Jordan for following the situation in Yemen.

In fact, the Council of Ministers met on Wednesday [23 March] and today it is still in session. It made many decisions to implement the accord document, which was signed in fraternal Amman. The government is continuing its efforts in order to implement this document. The implementation is the government's responsibility.

[Dhiyab] How do you assess the work of the Jordanian-Omani military committee?

['Afif] This committee, particularly the Jordanian team, carried out excellent work and is highly appreciated by all the sons of Yemen. I say this, because I feel that Major General 'Id [head of the Jordanian team] and his team did good work with the joint military committee at many locations. Confrontations among the Armed Forces were prevented at many locations. In fact, the joint military committee exerted intensive efforts. A few days ago, I heard His Majesty King Husayn say upon his return to Amman from the Gulf that he still has much hope and optimism. Of course, his majesty is holding the people of Yemen responsible in this regard. However, Jordan, especially His Majesty King Husayn, continues to follow this issue because Amman is the Yemenis' final resort.

We hope that all the people of Yemen will implement this accord signed in Amman, and I frankly reiterate that all the people of Yemen admire and are proud of King Husayn and the Government and people of fraternal Jordan for their continued efforts and they will continue this work because the accord was signed in fraternal and great Amman.

Defense Minister Wounded in Assassination Attempt

NC2803174194 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] AL-MU'TAMAR newspaper, mouthpiece of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, has reported that the Free Revolutionary Officers Movement has issued a statement saying that the Iraqi regime's defense minister, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, was the target of an assassination attempt in March. The paper cites the statement as saying that members of the Revolutionary Officers Movement opened fire at al-Majid outside his house in Baghdad, wounding him in the leg and arm and killing his bodyguard Major Salih and two other guards.

Two Army Companies Reportedly Defect to Kurdistan

NC2803182294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Citing sources of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, AL-MU'TAMAR newspaper reports today that two companies [sariyah] with six officers defected to the liberated Kurdistan region on 17 March. The paper says that the two companies were among the Iraqi regime forces stationed in the Karkuk sector adjacent to the liberated Kurdistan region. Although no information is available about the military unit to which the two companies belong or the ranks of the officers, the sources believe that they belonged to the first army corps of the Iraqi regime.

Speaker on Boycott, Ties With Neighbors

NC2803122794 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 22 Mar 94 p 11

[Report on interview with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih by Sami Kulayb in Paris; date not given]

[Text] The speaker of the Iraqi parliament, Sa'di Mahdi Salih, has affirmed that France, Russia, and China have changed their stances on Iraq. He said that the United States is adamantly adhering to its current stance for political reasons, which are supported by some Arab countries, and economic reasons stemming from the fear of Baghdad's return to the oil market. He pointed out that Iraqi authorities have implemented all the international resolutions, including the recognition of Kuwait. He accused Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani of working for Washington's interests.

AL-SAFIR met Salih in Paris, where he was heading the Iraqi parliamentary delegation to the 19th conference of the International Parliamentary Union held at UNESCO headquarters and attended by parliamentarians from 125 countries, among them many Arabs countries, including Kuwait. This conference is usually dedicated to looking into issues of international interest, human rights, and bolstering democratic action.

During his speech, French President Francois Mitterrand stressed issues of work, environmental protection, and development. However, the Iraqi delegation, which is currently visiting Paris for the first time since the occupation of Kuwait, stressed other goals. Salih summarized these goals by explaining Iraq's viewpoint to the international forum and presenting the issue of major concern to Iraq: lifting the economic boycott.

[Kulayb] We learned that a meeting took place on the sidelines among the Arab parliamentarians. What were their stances on lifting the boycott?

[Salih] The Arab meeting took place on the sidelines of the international meeting. In general, activities during such meetings are restricted to coordinating stances that will be presented during the international conference. This is why these issues were discussed, and we reached an agreement on a way to bolster Arab issues and proposals, including lifting the boycott on Iraq.

[Kulayb] Much is being said about a change in the French stance regarding Iraq. Is this serious?

[Salih] I believe that it is serious; France headed those countries that demanded that the lifting of the siege of Iraq should be discussed in a new way, not in the usual way that always followed an American opinion. In short, this American formulation maintains that there is nothing new in Iraq's stance and, therefore, the boycott must continue. But now the French, Russian, and Chinese have rejected this argument. They believe that Iraq has implemented many of the resolutions and a new stance must be taken. I believe that this is a good beginning.

[Kulayb] What are the obstacles preventing the lifting of the boycott, just so long as Iraq has implemented all or most of the international resolutions? Is it American policy or the economy and Iraq's return to the oil market?

[Salih] Of course, the political stance is the main reasons. The Americans and their Arab allies want to achieve the objective they failed to achieve through the use of weapons, that is, changing the regime in Iraq. This in itself is a violation of the UN Charter and of the right of people to choose the regimes they want. We still believe that this is not a good policy and will not achieve any results.

The second factor is economic. The oil-producing countries oppose Iraq's return to the oil market because this would mean a new reduction in oil prices. This is selfish. The oil issue should be treated in accordance with quotas. Prices can be stabilized only when quotas are redistributed and the highest production ceiling is maintained. We believe that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are using this method now.

[Kulayb] The West wants you to declare a clear position on the border issue with Kuwait. Why don't you recognize the borders and Kuwait's sovereignty over these borders?

[Salih] Actually, we are taken aback when this issue is submitted in this manner. Until 2 August 1990 Iraq had recognized Kuwait as a state and had treated its amir as a

head of state. Kuwait's amir was even honored by the al-Rafidayn medal first class. But things changed when we entered Kuwait militarily. We believe that there are known factors behind this, because the plot was exposed and Kuwait's amir was the perpetrator of this plot against Iraq. Everything is now clear, since we implemented the Security Council resolutions. The issue of Kuwait is in the past, as stated by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz. 'Aziz even reiterated this stance in his message to the Security Council president, French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee.

[Kulayb] What about your relations with Iran and Turkey?

[Salih] I prefer not to talk about this subject. We had excellent relations with Turkey. We still maintain some of these ties, but we hope that one day we will promote our bilateral relations. Iran's stance is variable, shifting between negative and positive aspects. We hope that Iran, as a Muslim neighbor country, will adopt the correct attitude toward Iraq. This is not difficult for Iran. This would benefit both countries.

[Kulayb] The Western countries continue their embargo on Iraq, and you continue to besiege the Kurds. Why did the relations deteriorate with the Kurds in the north and the Shiites in the south?

[Salih] I believe that those who are objective would find that all that is being said on these matters is untrue and inaccurate. As for the Shiites, they are leading Iraq side by side with t?eir Sunni brothers. Concerning the Kurdish problem, if the United States, Britain, and France withdrew their troops deployed in southern Turkey, the situation would return to its pre-1990 status. Iraq's Kurds enjoy full rights. They have their autonomous region and their language: the second official language in Iraq. They also have their local parliament and government.

[Kulayb] We asked you the question because Mas'ud Barzani has increased his attacks on Iraq, and also because the Kurds stress that Baghadad has imposed a new oil embargo on Kurdistan.

[Salih] The whole country is under siege. Therefore, the talk about the siege of Kurdistan is of no use. Barzani's attacks on Iraq are motivated by the United States. The game has been uncovered and it is disgraceful for an Iraqi to talk in this way. This is treason.

UN Vehicle Attacked at Checkpoint

NC2803180494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] A UN vehicle was the target of an attack by agents of the Iraqi regime at the [name indistinct] checkpoint yesterday as the vehicle was traveling from Irbil to Mosul. It was carrying four people, two of them UN policemen. An employee of the IRC [abbreviation given in English—International Red Cross] Organization named [words indistinct] told KURDISTAN NWAY newspaper that nine armed men opened fire at the vehicle at the Iraqi regime's checkpoint, seriously wounding the passengers. Eyewitnesses said that the nine armed men, who were dressed in Kurdish costumes, fled to the nearby Iraqi regime camps.

Islamic Resistance Controls Road, Kills 3

NC2803191394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance forces have carried out a heroic operation during which they managed to control the al-Rumaylah road, al-Muzaynah district. The forces carried out patrols and clashed with tyrant Saddam's troops, inflicting heavy losses on them.

Our sources in southern Iraq add that the Islamic resistance attacked a car carrying criminal 'Abd-al-'Azim Khalat of al-Basrah, who represents the intelligence apparatus in the southern oil company. The car was destroyed and the above-mentioned criminal was killed together with two other intelligence officers in his company.

The Islamic Resistance groups returned safely to their positions after carrying out the opereation.

Two Senior Officers Reportedly Killed in Clashes

NC2803191594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Our sources in the southern marshlands have confirmed that two of tyrant Saddam's senior officers have been killed in recent battles between tyrant Saddam's troops and the Islamic Resistance forces. They are the commander of the 51st Armored Division and Staff Colonel [name indistinct], commander of the 47th Brigade.

According to the sources, the division commander was killed in an attack launched by the Islamic Resistance last week against a military convoy in the area of al-Rumaylah, in al-Basrah governorate. The sources added that the men of the resistance inflicted heavy losses on the regime troops and forced them to retreat to their back positions.

Our sources in al-Basrah marshlands have said that tyrant Saddam's 47th Brigade has sustained heavy human and material losses due to the courage and steadfastness of the Islamic Resistance troops. The sources affirmed that dozens of bodies were scattered over the battlefield and that the body of the brigade commander was seen among those of a number of officers of different ranks.

Our sources in the southern marshlands report the continued massing of regime troops around the marshlands to prepare for new attacks against displaced civilians.

Paper Urges Greater Ties With Other Nations

JN2703180094 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 23 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

["Standpoint" column by Barzan al-Tikriti: "What is Required From Iraqi Diplomacy Now and in the Future?"]

[Text] The Iran-Iraq war imposed a certain method of political action on the Foreign Ministry, represented by its focus on the United Nations while paying less attention to bilateral relations. Perhaps this was justified by certain circumstances and by bilateral relations that did not require constant contact in order to be developed. Moreover, the political situation in Iraq at that time allowed it to achieve successes at the UN because of the Iranian rejection of any peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. This is in addition to the fact that most other countries understood Iraq's stand, except for major and Western countries, which had selfish interests and sought to prolong the conflict on the ground, taking advantage of the United Nations as a political forum that provided them with an opportunity to avoid a peaceful solution. This is similar to the present situation, but with a different form and method aimed at keeping Iraq in its current situation for the longest time possible so that these countries can meet their agenda in the region. This was clear in their alternating support for Iraq and for Iran.

It is also obvious that the means available to Iraq at the time were no longer available after 2 August 1990 and the subsequent barbaric aggression against Iraq. On the contrary, the United Nations became a field for political confrontation against Iraq, through the use of all its institutions, as a main tool to break the will of and destroy Iraq. This restricted the role of Iraq in terms of influencing these institutions and the UN member states because of U.S., Western, and Zionist hegemony. This fact led to the conclusion that all of Iraq's efforts at the international organization's level would not achieve their objectives even though Iraq mobilized all legal, political, and factual arguments to support their case.

In light of this situation, I believe that Iraq should no longer deem it enough to work with the United Nations alone—although this is something that has been imposed on Iraq and Iraq has been given no other choice. In order to support and render its work a success, Iraq should intensify its bilateral contacts, not only with UN member states, but also with all countries of influence within their particular geographical groups, based on a plan created by the Foreign Ministry. If this is achieved and we are able to realize tangible progress in those relations that were greatly harmed, then our stand in the United Nations will improve and our proposals and views will have an effect on friends and just nations. This is especially true if we take into consideration that the current international situation has changed and that there has been an emergence of many countries that could express their viewpoint in a manner different than that during the Kuwait crisis.

I note, regrettably, that we have ignored our continuing ties with our friends. Our moves were confined to certain periods of time, after which we forgot about such moves until major events on the level of our relation with the United Nations occurred. Even if we made a move toward one of these nations, such a move basically ended up in New York because we did not have many ambassadors in many important countries that could have influence on a case such as ours.

Based on my study of the developments in countries' stands toward us, I find it appropriate that the Foreign Ministry's action plan should cover many fronts:

Within the framework of inter-Arab relations, it is necessary to continue our contacts with the countries whose stands toward us continue to be relatively positive.

As for the Gulf countries, it has become clear to every observer that there has been a change in their stands toward Iraq. Some are even publicly announcing their stands and their sympathy with us without any fear from the media. These developments should be an incentive for us to intensify and broaden our contacts with these countries.

We also find that stands on the international level are tangibly improving. Even though it did not make a declared stand exactly as we wanted, Britain is no longer raising the banner against Iraq as it did before. Mr. Tariq 'Aziz's meeting with the British ambassador at the Security Council may not be considered a bad step. What applies to Britain also applies on other European countries, including France, Italy, Spain, and former socialist states, led by Russia. If we are able to reach out to these countries and talk to them in the language of interests that they understand, then I am confident that we can reach good results.

It is important not to restrict our moves toward certain countries. There are countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America that have influence in the international arena and at the same time have economic interests and problems that Iraq can help solve.

Paper Criticizes OPEC Output Ceiling Decision

JN2803104994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has said Iraq is about to reenter the oil market. In an editorial today, the newspaper expresses confidence that Iraq, since it is a heavyweight, will be the decisive factor in the balance between supply and demand in the oil markets in a manner that preserves the rights of the exporting countries.

The paper focused on the contacts several oil companies and establishments are making with Iraq. It said the ghost of the resumption of Iraqi oil exports is haunting some agent OPEC member states which placed the wealth of their peoples at the service of the imperialist and Zionist circles to prevent the organization from reaching an agreement that secures the interests of its members.

It said the objective of the aggression against Iraq was clear from the beginning when the imperialist circles tried to control oil sources and tighten the siege on Iraq. It added that the aggression did not stop, but expanded to include all oil-exporting countries with the aim of preventing them from utilizing their resources in building their development capabilities and improving their economic and social conditions.

The newspaper emphasized that the only way to stop aggression against oil states is through fixing a production ceiling by which all OPEC member states abide in order to secure the rights of exporting nations and find the means that secure growth and prosperity for these nations.

The newspaper criticized the OPEC ministerial committee's decision to maintain the current output ceiling. It said this decision will seriously harm those who adopted it, and is viewed as serving the interests of imperialism, whose prosperity and might have been realized at the expense of the struggling and developing nations.

Paper: Case for Embargo 'Immensely Weakened'

JN2703115094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0837 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has stated that the case for perpetuating the unfair embargo clamped on Iraq has been immensely weakened, and that no one can any longer justify the perpetuation of this embargo.

In an article today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds that Iraq's international image is shining, and that its brightness will extinguish the light in the eyes of evildoers, defeatists, and dollar worshipers.

The paper goes on to say: The reason the embargo, along with Ekeus, have been pushed into a corner is manifested in the fact that Ekeus has continued to evade the issue of setting a date for the start of "long-term monitoring" per Resolution 715, although this monitoring actually started before the beginning of this year.

The paper says that for some time, there have been increasing Arab and international calls for lifting the unfair embargo clamped on Iraq. In this regard, the paper notes the statements made by former French Defense Minister Jean-Bernard Chevenement, who has described the anti-Iraq embargo as an objectionable scandal for humanity, adding that he is indignant over the suffering the embargo is causing to Iraqi children.

Commenting on those who have been blinded by malice, those who placed their destiny in the hands of Zionists and colonialists and spent the Arab nation's wealth buying consciences to ensure the perpetuation of the embargo against the Iraqi children, women, and elderly, the paper urges them to correct their positions and come to their senses.

World's 'Silence' on 'Massacre' in South Criticized

NC2603164294 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1450 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Since 6 March, the murderous Saddamite regime has been launching a barbaric and wide-scale military campaign against the marshes overlooking al-Nasiriyah, al-Basrah, and al-'Amarah cities, with a view to besieging and annihilating our people who live there. It is part of a premeditated criminal plan to stop the popular current, which is opposed to the regime's criminal practices against our struggling people.

According to the information we have received from our strugglers in the region, the authority's troops conducted a large offensive along several battlefronts, using tanks, artillery, and infantry troops from four divisions and backed up by regiments from the Republican Guards. They overran a large area of the marshes following concerted artillery bombardment using internationally banned napalm bombs, which caused huge fires in several villages in the region that left several villagers dead.

The following facts emerge from the recent treacherous Saddamite attack against our people in the south:

1. The isolated regime in Baghdad has launched the attack to liquidate the bastions of Iraqi jihad and popular resistance, which pose an increasing threat to the regime, have become rallying points for the people, and provide a ray of hope for salvation now that the international threats to bring down the regime have vanished.

2. Saddam and his gang continue to act with hatred toward the people and a desire to harm and muffle them, despite the catastrophes, perils, and calamities caused by this gang to the people; this increases day after day without any hope of change in the gang's bloody and inhuman practices.

3. The new world order, led by the United States and backed by its allies, does not care much about the constant deaths, general starvation, and utter misery in Iraq caused by Saddam's gang. They also do not care much about the violations of human rights in the south. Among the Security Council resolutions, they only care about the destruction of Iraq's strategic weapons. For this reason, they focus their entire attention on destroying these weapons, a goal that has turned into the standard criteria for judging the Iraqi regime's attitude and discipline.

4. The annihilation, destruction of the environment, and devastation of the populated areas in southern Iraqi are part of a comprehensive Zionist scheme, which closely resembles the campaigns of annihilation and demographic changes carried out by the Zionist entity in Palestine and is intended to be standardized throughout the Islamic countries.

5. The silence of world public opinion at what is happening in Iraq is part of a multifaceted collusion against the gigantic Islamic trend, which started during the blessed uprising of 1991.

Let us all announce a general mourning throughout the world over the March 1994 massacre, which is still in progress. Let us all participate in organizing permanent and vocal marches in front of the Saddamite regime's embassies throughout the world. Let us intensify our protests over the world's murderous silence on the annihilation of our people. Let us do everything we can to help save our people, who are dying inside Iraq, and not just sit with our arms folded and accept the work of destiny.

Peres Comments on Jabalyah Incident, IDF

TA2903122394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] In reaction to the attack in Petah Tiqva, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that such incidents are part of the current Israeli security situation. He made the remark at the opening of a fund-raising campaign at the Tel Aviv Museum. Our correspondent Eyal Eisenstein reports:

[Begin recording] [Eisenstein] The stabbing in Petah Tiqva was nationalistic in nature. It is an inseparable part of the overall current situation, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today. More people will be hurt and murdered, Peres said, if we do not bring about a basic change in the situation.

[Peres] This is yet another terrible bloody incident, part of the current situation. I do not believe that the incidents, the stabbings, the killings, can be stopped without basically changing the situation. Courage is needed to see things as they are, to see their roots, and to reach the necessary conclusions.

[Eisenstein] Regarding the impact of last night's incidents in Jabalyah on the political process, Peres said that the killing of the six members of the Fatah Hawks will make the talks very difficult, but they will open today and continue. Peres added that he is certain the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers who killed the Gazans had no malicious intentions and acted responsibly. We are only clever after the fact, the foreign minister said.

[Peres] Primarily, I have every respect for the soldiers who serve under impossible conditions. I believe that we should offer the Army a political solution before we pass judgment on their military performance. [end recording]

Peres on Talks, Palestinian Police, Settlers

TA2803165894 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Dan Margalit in the studio—live]

[Text] [Margalit] We have just heard on IDF Radio that the delegation leaving for Cairo consists of only Major General Amnon Shahaq's group. Does this mean the Palestinians want to slow down the negotiations on Gaza-Jericho First?

[Peres] I am not certain this report is correct or official. The delegation will be able to deal with the issue of Hebron as well as the issue of resuming the negotiations on Gaza and Jericho. It has been decided that the parties will first discuss the issue of security in Hebron and, if they reach agreement, they will immediately move on to the issue of Gaza and Jericho. I hope they will reach an agreement.

[Margalit] How many Palestinian policemen are we willing to allow into Gaza, Jericho, and Hebron; and how many Norwegian observers, for example?

[Peres] This is precisely what we will tell the Palestinians tomorrow. I would not like to state it on television now.

[Margalit] What does it really matter whether there will be 20 or 200 Norwegians? Either we trust them, or we do not.

[Peres] Basically, we trust the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. It is in charge of security in Hebron. We make supreme efforts to prevent friction, to take the other side's needs into consideration as well. We would not really want to set up three equal forces in Hebron. At the same time, we agree to bring in an international presence—as we pledged in the Declaration of Principles with regard to Gaza and Jericho. The figure is important. It will determine whether it is a presence or more than that.

[Margalit] Who will command the Palestinian policemen in Hebron, for example?

[Peres] Overall and supreme responsibility over issues of security will remain in the hands of the IDF.

[Margalit] But, there will be situations, such as the one we saw on television, in which settlers fire their guns. Can Palestinian policemen fire at them, or will they first have to ask the permission of Gen. Mufaz?

[Peres] It is not as simple as that. We want to prevent contact between the two altogether. I suppose that the Palestinian police will guard Muslim and Arab sites, and there will also be joint patrols. As a whole, the IDF will have the overall and supreme responsibility.

[Margalit] If you want to prevent friction, you must ban the settlers from going to the marketplace in Hebron, because it is not clear whether we should protect them or protect other people from them.

[Peres] This is not the only alternative; you can have two access routes, one for the settlers, the other for the Arabs. We seek solutions for the complicated situation, as you pointed out.

[Margalit] Speaking on this issue, are you for or against the settlers staging a march in Hebron [on 30 April]?

[Peres] I certainly oppose it. Who needs it?

[Margalit] How about a rally?

[Peres] Look, one of the worst things to have happened, other than the Cave of the Patriarchs incident, is the incessant appearances of the those people on the international media. One may have the impression that the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlers control the State of Israel. They use extremist language, painting a picture of an nearly unrecognizable Israel. The situation is incredibly tense; there is enormous anger; nothing has calmed yet. Who needs this rally? What for? Against what? What does it serve?

[Margalit] It is against the government policy, which is their democratic right.

[Peres] You can stage demonstrations against the government policy in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. You do not stage

demonstrations in tense and hurting places. There is a limit. Look, everything is allowed; I could come into your house and pull you out [as heard]. The question is what do we do when the situation is very tense; when there is a lot of friction; when some people use their arms illegally; what do we do to reduce the tension?

[Margalit] Would the friction not have been better reduced by pulling out the settlers from the heart of Hebron, not Qiryat Arba', but Bet Hadassah and Tal al-Rumaythah?

[Peres] I do not know. I will not say anything on this matter outside the cabinet sessions. We are in the midst of negotiations, not only with ourselves. Anything you say immediately turns into a concession before negotiations were even held. Being a member of the cabinet, I believe that the only place for me to discuss such issues is the cabinet session. I suggest that we do not task the IDF with this matter. I expect the members of the cabinet to have the courage to ask how to construct a situation which would minimize friction and clashes, while securing the life of people of all sides, settlers as well as Arabs.

[Margalit] Assuming that the, so called, security package is wrapped up—that is, the first stage of the Palestinian police and Norwegian observers entry into three regions in the territories—when do you believe, will the Gaza and Jericho stage of the negotiations be over?

[Peres] It depends. If we reach the agreement on providing a feeling of security in Hebron tomorrow and begin discussing Gaza and Jericho the next day, and if the delegates sit all next week—day and night—in an accelerated process of negotiations, we can finish the whole thing in two to three weeks.

[Margalit] But, as we just heard, the PLO wants negotiations to start only when the security package is wrapped up.

[Peres] I hope they will end it tomorrow.

[Margalit] Are we that close?

[Peres] I believe so. The gaps are such that I believe they could be bridged. We can end discussing the issue of Hebron tomorrow evening or night, and make an agreement. Then, we will be able to immediately begin discussing Gaza and Jericho the very next day. At the same time, we were to begin discussing economic issues, but the PLO announced that it wants to begin discussing this next Sunday. Let me tell you: Any delay in the beginning of the discussions, will naturally lead to a delayed conclusion.

[Margalit] Finance Minister Shohat said today, however, that the economic agreement is ready, and if it was not for the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre, it would have been signed by now.

[Peres] I believe there are some issues that need to be agreed on; there is agreement on some things, and disagreement on others. Negotiations are still called for.

[Margalit] Would it not have been more convenient had we been in the midst of negotiations with Syria?

[Peres] I believe that we must first end the matter of Gaza and Jericho. We must first crate a piece of new Palestinian reality. Nothing will change the situation in the Middle East more than a change in the physical reality. Making another declaration, statement, or appearance is unimportant. We are pretty close, I believe, to turning the Oslo agreement into a new political reality. After this, we will have to start the Syrian issue.

[Margalit] Not before? Not at the same time? Last week we heard al-Asad saying that if Rabin wants peace in the north, he should come and make an arrangement.

[Peres] I do not know where he was quoted....

[Margalit] It made the headlines.

[Peres] Another headline.... If he opens the negotiations, they will open and right now. We are putting off nothing. It should be understood that peace is not made between leaders only; it is peace between peoples. Negotiations involve both nations. In any event, our people have to see, in no uncertain terms, that the Syrians are really willing to enter full negotiations for full peace.

[Margalit] Mr. Peres, do you agree with the prime minister that, in its deliberations, the Shamgar commission causes damage to the IDF?

[Peres] It certainly causes problems. I would not like to reach conclusions about the commission before it reaches its own conclusions about what happened, but it is very problematic. The Army officers must prepare and be ready for their appearances, explain, worry, and convince others. This is very difficult.

Peres on Settlements, Peace Process

TA2503125994 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Mar 94 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Pe'erli Shahar in Peres' office; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shahar] During the negotiations on the Palestinian issue, do you not sometimes think: What is there to discuss with them at such length? Often it seems that creativity and imagination are required to keep the process alive and kicking, and you never get tired, and always come up with new phrasings and terminology.

[Peres] Some say that the Oslo agreement is very difficult, but it is not the agreement that is difficult—it is the situation. We have to deal with a difficult situation, not a difficult agreement. We must always keep our aim in mind, while remembering the support that we have. We have a Knesset majority of one, and that majority can be lost. Hence, we must work with our eyes on the goal and our ears attentive to the support. This is what makes the process so difficult. At the same time, the Palestinians have very high expectations and make very high demands.

[Shahar] What do you mean when you say that the Oslo agreement was difficult? Was it the fact that we talked to the PLO, the content, or the discussions?

[Peres] Sitting with the PLO was difficult too. The PLO used to be taboo for most Israelis. This was a major obstacle to overcome, for us and for people outside our camp. The second thing was the issue of Jerusalem. Had we not stumbled over the issue of Jerusalem today, we would have reached an agreement. The third matter were the settlements. There are 130,000 settlers. It is nothing like the Sinai. Another issue was security.

[Shahar] Looking back, do you not believe that the decision to leave them intact was a mistake?

[Peres] No, because had we made the opposite decision, we would have antagonized and lost the support of all of those who support them.

[Shahar] Perhaps they should not have been mentioned at all in the negotiations?

[Peres] Not mentioned? The settlers would have asked: What about us? This way we tell them: You stay where you are.

[Shahar] Thus putting off the confrontation for how long? Two years? Five years?

[Peres] But this cannot be done. There are certain questions that need to be answered first regarding the police force that would operate there; their rights; their protection. What do you mean not mention them? Their status has to be determined.

[Shahar] But leaving them in their place creates a situation of constant friction?

[Peres] And if they are not mentioned, what then? Should they be removed or not?

[Shahar] A decision will have to be made.

[Peres] Such as?

[Shahar] I am not expressing opinions here. I am the reporter. While you attempt to solve the problem of two to five years of friction, there are Israelis and Palestinians who want to establish facts on the ground....

[Peres] And what it the alternative?

[Shahar] Settle the matter now. State that you wholeheartedly believe they should be removed in order for the Palestinians to be able to maintain their autonomy, perhaps.

[Peres] This would have created an intolerable situation. Remember how hard it was to remove the settlers from the Sinai.

[Shahar] But you will reach this point in the negotiations on the permanent arrangement.

[Peres] Maybe yes, maybe no; we will see.

[Shahar] You typically think of long-term results. What do you believe will happen at the end of the interim period?

[Peres] I believe that if there is a change of attitude between us and the Palestinians, the settlers could stay. I see no reason why not.

[Shahar] Do you not see the Palestinians presenting an ultimatum for a state after the interim period?

[Peres] What do you mean ultimatum? Will they aim their artillery at us? I believe they will make demands and we will seek a compromise, a solution.

[Shahar] The problems on the Palestinian track are extremely difficult, and it appears that the Palestinians and the Syrians are holding up comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Last week it was announced that a Jordanian bank is opening a branch in the West Bank. Are we expecting economic relations with Jordan before we establish diplomatic relations?

[Peres] I doubt it.

[Shahar] Why?

[Peres] Jordan is hesitant at this time. Perhaps it believes that nothing will come out of the 'Arafat business. Perhaps it believes the same about al-Asad. It also could be that it wants to change the current pace.

[Shahar] Does the fact that negotiations with the Palestinians move slowly help our relations with al-Asad, who feared that we will reach an agreement with the Palestinians and leave Syria isolated?

[Peres] I am not certain. This speculation is hard to verify.

[Shahar] What is really happening with al-Asad?

[Peres] Al-Asad has made a strategic decision to opt for peace, but he has not yet answered four cardinal questions. The first regards the nature of the negotiations, which projects on the nature of peace. The negotiations cannot be held on a narrow and rigid basis. He must change that if he wants peace. Second, when he speaks of comprehensive peace, he remains vague.

[Shahar] Several senior Syrian figures appeared in international symposiums where they spoke of full peace for full withdrawal, explaining that full peace includes all of the....

[Peres] I have not heard a Syrian official doing that.

[Shahar] What about the meeting between Clinton and al-Asad?

[Peres] We saw Clinton answering this question, not al-Asad.

[Shahar] But he said that al-Asad has reached a decision.

[Peres] We will see. The third is the issue of security arrangements. We are on the Golan for security reasons, and we must provide answers to the security problems that would be created in case of a withdrawal from there.

[Shahar] Do you not often say that peace is security?

[Peres] Yes, peace is definitely an element of security. I am not saying that it is the only one. The fourth thing is

Lebanon, because both Syria and Lebanon have been hinting that it is not standing on its own feet.

[Shahar] What is the solution we seek with Lebanon?

[Peres] We believe it would be desirable for Lebanon to be independent, in control of its territory. Securing the north of Israel is our supreme interest. We have no business in running the Lebanese policies for them. We conduct an Israeli defense policy which has bearings on Lebanon.

[Shahar] Do you mean that if al-Asad guarantees appropriate security arrangements in Lebanon we would settle for that?

[Peres] Yes.

[Shahar] It has been often said that in 1994 matters will be determined. Do you really believe we will reach some comprehensive breakthrough this year?

[Peres] We will reach breakthrough; I do not know if it will be comprehensive.

[Shahar] Where will it take place, and where not?

[Peres] I see a good chance for implementing the agreement with the Palestinians. I also regard this a major psychological and political breakthrough. We may also start things with the Syrians, but this depends on the way Syria behaves.

[Shahar] Does Jordan depend on the Palestinians, Syria, or both?

[Peres] Jordan depends on whoever it believes it does. I believe it is independent.

[Shahar] Who does it believe it depends on?

[Peres] They apparently believe that Jordan cannot precede everyone with its treaty. [passage omitted]

Beilin Discusses Progress of Peace Talks

JN2803141894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1037 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Qol Yisra'el correspondent Nawwaf al-Nabbari in Jerusalem on 28 March; from the "With the Midday Events" program—report is interspersed with recorded portions of Beilin speaking in Hebrew]

[Text] Our first question to Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Yosi Beilin was, naturally, about tomorrow's negotiations with the Palestinians in Cairo and whether some of the sticking points will obstruct or delay the negotiations. Dr. Beilin hoped these points would not delay or obstruct the negotiations and said substantive issues have been resolved. What remains, he said, are quantitative and numerical issues such as the size of the police force, including the Palestinian police force and international observers. He expressed his conviction that when the matter is related to quantitative and numerical issues, it will be easier to reach an agreement. He hoped that negotiations on the Gaza and Jericho agreement will also begin tomorrow and that this issue will be dealt with quickly.

Regarding the phased settlement in Gaza and Jericho, Dr. Beilin said the issue of the number of Palestinian police and that of coordination and understanding between them on the one hand, and the Israeli police and Army on the other, are still unresolved. This is one of the issues to be discussed in connection with the phased settlement just like the economic issues. As for security arrangements in Hebron, talk is revolving around small and limited numbers of Palestinian policemen, and this continues to be the main topic of disagreement. Naturally, the deputy foreign minister said, there are no difficult substantive issue in connection with the issue of Hebron or even the Gaza and Jericho agreement.

Asked whether the deployment of a Palestinian force is the necessary step now to maintain security in Hebron or if it is related to a step toward the Palestinian side aimed at supporting the position of the Palestinian leadership and consequently restoring the previous momentum of the negotiations, Dr. Beilin said: I think this step is symbolic. Moreover, I do not belittle such symbols. I do not think that those policemen are the perfect solution for the present security problem. I am aware of the problem between the settlers and Palestinians in the territories. But, it is important to demonstrate here that we are alert to what happened in the aftermath of the massacre in Hebron. We, too, do not overlook the dimensions of this action and we are ready to undertake an unusual action. Talk is about a Palestinian force in Hebron and an international presence. We have not planned for this happening before a comprehensive agreement is reached.

Replying to another question, Dr. Beilin did not want to discuss proposals about rounding up Jewish settlers in one or two locations in Hebron to prevent friction and maintain the security of both sides. He said the security authorities will find the right answer to these issues.

Asked about the way the decisionmakers in Jerusalem view the situation of the present Palestinian leadership as a leadership to which one can talk in the future when a final solution is reached, and the extent of the Palestinian leadership's ability to make crucial decisions under critical circumstances like the present ones, the deputy foreign minister said: I do not want to discuss details of the final solution or the nature of the political solution to the Palestine question although you know how firmly I support a solution based on a confederation between the Palestinians and Jordan. I am following what is taking place in the Palestinian camp and I must in this regard say that I was not taken by surprise. Everyone knew that at a decisive moment there would be a difficult confrontation within this camp. We have never thought that once a settlement is reached or a solution between us and the Palestinians gets closer, all the Palestinians will clap in support of the realistic current within the PLO. Undoubtedly, I am aware of the difficulties facing this current or trend in implementing its policy. But, I also believe that

this current will emerge from this process stronger and firmer. When a change occurs on the ground and when the Palestinian police force is deployed in Gaza and Jericho, and in case autonomy is established—which will enjoy economic and practical ability and authority—this current or main party within the Palestinian camp will get stronger.

During his conversation with us, Dr. Beilin expressed concern over the phenomenon of extremism and the violation of law by certain factions living at the margin of the Israeli society. He said he never thought such a phenomena exist, particularly in this magnitude. He indicated that the decisions made by the government proved that the Israeli Government has realized the characteristics and dangers of the new situation after the Hebron massacre and acted accordingly.

In light of the good chances that economic talks between Israel and the Palestinians, which started in Paris on the Palestinian customs system, will resume in Cairo tomorrow, we asked Dr. Beilin about the economic future of Israel and the Palestinians and whether the two economies should be disengaged. He said: Had it been up to me and were it possible to start right from the beginning, I would have certainly been inclined to disengagement on the economic level between us and the territories. Today, we cannot seriously talk about this because the territories connection with Israel and vice versa is extremely big and because the Palestinians depend mainly on us. If we close the borders between the territories, or the autonomous areas and Israel, it would mean thousands of Palestinians would not be able to work in Israel and would face unemployment problems. This would undoubtedly be immediately reflected in the living standards in the autonomous Palestinian areas. Therefore, although I wish to see economic and political disengagement between the two sides, I know this is not realistic and we have to continue the present situation, but perhaps on a narrower scale.

Finally, we asked Dr. Beilin about talks with Syria and the U.S. role in healing the rift between the two sides, as well as bringing solutions closer to reality, he said: The Americans returned from Syria, encouraged by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's readiness to push forward the peace process. I also hope that negotiations with Syria will resume in the second half of April. I hope the Americans will intensify their efforts because I do not envisage any progress with Syria without intensive U.S. intervention. Moreover, the prospects of reaching an agreement with Syria in 1994 are still realistic and possible.

Delegation Departs for Security Talks in Cairo

TA2903093294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] The Israeli delegation departed for Cairo this morning to conclude the discussions about the security arrangements in Hebron and pave the way for the resumption of the negotiations with the PLO. The delegation is headed by Major General Amnon Shahaq, who is accompanied by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, the prime minister's political adviser Jacques Neriya, and Foreign Ministry's legal adviser Yo'el Singer. The talks will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Cairo.

Knesset Member on Stance on Palestinian Protection

NC2903082494 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1610 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with Knesset member 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, the head of the Arab Democratic Party, in "the occupied West Bank," by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo on 29 March; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jundi] Let us begin this dialogue by referring to discussions inside Israel regarding dangers stemming from the presence of settlers in the occupied Arab territories.

[Darawshah] A heated debate is taking place on the Israeli political map and among the Arab community in Israel regarding the necessary arrangements to guarantee protection for the Palestinians and prevent the settlers' aggressive acts against the sons of our Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The reality is that although the Israeli Government has facilitated the entry of a Palestinian police force and international forces consisting of Norwegian police, these arrangements do not seem to be enough, because the population of Palestinians in the occupied areas exceeds 2 million, all of whom need protection. They need protection from the armed extremist settlers, who have been equipped with arms by the Israeli Government. They receive the full support of the Israeli Government. The Palestinian people in the occupied areas also need international protection from the Israeli Army and the other security organs, particularly the musta'ribin units [Israeli agents who disguise themselves as Arabs], who fool the Palestinians.

While we welcome the recent agreement, I am not confident that these arrangements will provide real protection for the Palestinians in the occupied territories. While there is settlement and occupation, the problem will remain. The fears of massacres similar to the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron and other such acts will remain. The dangers of renewed daily aggression against the Palestinian people will remain.

[Al-Jundi] But how do you read Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statements that he is not ready to meet the Palestinian demand to evacuate the settlers from the Palestinian city of Hebron?

[Darawshah] This stance is not justified. Yitzhaq Rabin fears the Israeli right. He is afraid of the demonstrations the Israeli right might hold. The extremist and criminal settlers are at the head of the Israeli right. This is why he tries to appease them at the expense of the peace process, the Palestinian people, and the Arab nation. Proceeding from this perspective, we criticize Yitzhaq Rabin's stance and demand practical action to prove that he has honest

intentions toward protecting the Palestinians and deterring the extremists, be they settlers or Israeli forces, to prevent them from taking action against the Palestinians and carrying out crimes of terrorism against them. This is why Yitzhaq Rabin has been talking a great deal about peace but he has implemented no real practical steps that deter the extremist settlers and secure protection for our defenseless Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] How will the Israeli people view the need to implement the Gaza-Jericho Agreement quickly as a means to cool down the heated struggle inside the occupied territories?

[Darawshah] There are two trends on the Israeli street. The Israeli right does not want to implement this agreement and is working to destroy it. It is also trying to prevent an Israeli withdrawal from even one inch of the occupied Arab territories. The left wants the agreement to be implemented immediately to allow the PLO led by Yasir 'Arafat to enter Gaza and Jericho first, implement the agreement, and prevent things from worsening.

There is interest among the forces advocating peace inside Israel in implementing this agreement. But the problem is that the Israeli Government swings between the right and the left. In particular, Yitzhaq Rabin swings back and forth, although he heads a leftist government. He has not had the courage to take practical steps to prove his credibility and readiness to implement the agreement on 13 April. This is why discussions concentrate on how to reach agreement on implementing the Oslo Agreement by 13 April. I doubt withdrawal will take place by the middle of next month. It could take much longer than that. [passage omitted]

Political Source on Peace Negotiations With Syria

TA2903142994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] "When the Gaza-Jericho negotiations are completed and an agreement with the PLO is signed we will move on to serious negotiations with Syria," a senior political source in Jerusalem told HA'ARETZ. He said "we are now preparing the ground for serious negotiations with Syria." According to the source "the price for peace with Syria is obvious, but there is no point in declaring it before negotiations start."

The source said he believes that Israel will reach a peace agreement with Syria this year. In Jerusalem's contacts with Washington, it was suggested that Secretary of State Warren Christopher come to the region prior to the completion of the talks with the Palestinians, participate in the signing ceremony of the Gaza-Jericho withdrawal agreement, and go on to Damascus. In this way, Christopher's trip would symbolize transferring the emphasis in the peace process from the Palestinian track to the Syrian one.

Israel expects at this stage additional public moves by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as an opening to negotiations and in order to help convince public opinion to support an agreement between the two sides. Al-Asad's agreement to renew the talks with Israel, even before the Palestinians announce the resumption of their talks, is seen in Jerusalem as a sign of the Syrian president's seriousness and as a proper response to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks on Syria during his recent visit to the United States. Rabin said that "the time has come for painful decisions over Syria. We will agree to do what is required of us if the Syrians do what is required of them."

Nevertheless, analysts recently reiterated the evaluation they passed on to the political echelon in Jerusalem that al-Asad will not advance significantly in the peace process with Israel before he is convinced that Israel intends to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

Israel hopes that speeding up the talks with the Syrians will also find expression in a change in the negotiating format and character. Israel called on Syria to replace Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, its representative to the negotiations, claiming that its delegate, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, is a Rabin confidant while al-'Allaf does not have a similar status with al-Asad. Another Israeli request, raised by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during his recent visit to Washington, was that a peace settlement with Syria lead to peace arrangements with Jordan and Lebanon, and normalization of relations with the other Arab states, except for Libya and Iraq. Israel will not, however, present that as a condition to the Syrians so that the agreement with Damascus will "stand on its own two feet." Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said recently in talks with western sources that Syria opposes a separate agreement with Israel, but will be able to make do with "progress" along the other tracks. Al-Shar' made it clear that Syria will oppose the lifting or easing of the Arab boycott on Israel at the present time. He explained that such an action depended on progress in the peace process and that the Arabs would not give up such an important card at this stage of the negotiations. Syria also ties its participation in the multilateral talks to progress in the bilateral negotiations with Israel.

Soldiers Open Fire, Kill Six Gazans in Jabalyah

'Severe' Riots Break Out

TA2803191794 Jerusalem New Channel 1 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Six Palestinians were killed this evening in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar was told that the six were Fatah members who this afternoon attended a march in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza commemorating a Fatah Hawks fugitive who was killed last year. The six were apparently driving back from the march wearing uniforms. Army sources told our correspondent that the six were riding in two cars, and they appeared suspicious to the troops.

Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] undercover unit ordered them to stop, and they refused. The soldiers opened fire, killed six, and wounded a passerby. Severe riots broke out in the Jabalyah refugee camp, and the IDF considered imposing a curfew there.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 28 March reports: "Curfew was clamped on Nabulus this afternoon after two locals were injured by soldiers who fired at rioters. The IDF intend to lift the curfew later this evening. A driver of military truck was injured this afternoon by stones thrown at his car in Janin."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 28 March adds that in the clash in Jabalyah, "two locals were injured." The report goes on to say that "the restrictions imposed on Nabulus this evening have been lifted."]

Shahaq Phones Sha'th on Incident

TA2903060194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Fatah has declared a 24-hour strike in the Gaza Strip in the wake of yesterday's incident in Jabalyah, and threatens to organize three days of violent clashes with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the PLO, phoned his counterpart Nabil Sha'th yesterday to explain that the killing of the six Fatah members in Gaza had not been an operation initiated by the IDF. Shahaq said it had been an encounter with an armed gang, and emphasized that IDF soldiers can only shoot when confronted with armed masked men.

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe says that the purpose of the phone call was to explain the circumstances of the incident on the eve of the resumption of the talks in Cairo. It has been asserted more than once in the talks with the PLO to date that the IDF will take action against any armed man likely to endanger our troops.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that some 70 percent of the IDF installations in the Gaza Strip have been relocated to alternative sites within the boundaries of the Green Line and to Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip. The IDF estimates that from the moment the agreement with the PLO is signed it will need three to five weeks to complete the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Our correspondent has learned that Israel does not object to having the first Palestinian policemen arrive in Gaza next week even if there is still no agreement with the PLO. However, the Palestinians make the arrival of the policemen contingent on the signing of an agreement concerning Hebron.

15 Wounded in Riots in Nabulus, Strip

TA2903073994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] There is a great deal of outrage in the territories over the killing of six Fatah activists in Gaza. Serious riots erupted in Nabulus this morning, and our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 15 locals were wounded and a soldier was lightly injured by a stone. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has clamped a curfew on the city, as well as on the adjacent refugee camps.

Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of IDF troops in the Gaza Strip, has been trying to calm down the situation. He phoned several Fatah leaders in the area this morning to explain the circumstances of the shooting of six armed Fatah members who aimed their weapons at the soldiers.

The six victims were buried late last night in the Jabalyah refugee camp. This morning a curfew was clamped on the camp, as well as on Bayt Lahiyah and adjacent areas. A 24-hour general strike called by Fatah is being observed today in the Gaza Strip.

Several stonethrowing incidents occurred near the homes of the mourning families. Locals claim that soldiers tried to prevent them from putting up shacks to accommodate the mourners.

Further Riots, Casualties Reported

TA2903110694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] One Arab was killed and another 45 were wounded this morning in riots in the territories in response to the killing of six Fatah members in the Jabalyah refugee camp last night. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that 17-year-old 'Umar 'Awwad al-Qabbani was killed by soldiers' gunfire in the al-Burayj refugee camp. His body was snatched away and buried. Another 15 Arabs were wounded by soldiers' gunfire in Jabalyah, Bayt Hanun, and Gaza.

Riots erupted this morning in most cities and refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria. The security forces clamped a curfew on Nabulus and its environs after 30 locals were wounded by soldiers' gunfire. A curfew was also imposed on Tulkarm and its adjacent refugee camps. Riots and disturbances also occurred in Qalqilyah, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Janin.

Shots, Bombs Reported in Nabulus, Janin

TA2903060894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Shots were fired last night at the Nabulus home of Sa'id Kan'an in what appears to be an internal Fatah dispute. No one was injured and no damage was caused.

In Janin, two petrol bombs were thrown at the Civil Administration building. Again, no damage was caused.

In the Qatif Bloc junction in the Gaza Strip, a bomb exploded close to an Army jeep, which was damaged, but none of the soldiers was injured.

Resident Attack by Arab in Petah Tiqva

TA2903093894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] An Israeli who was attacked in Petah Tiqva continues to be in serious condition. Our initial information is that at around 1030 this morning a man was attacked with an ax by two Arab construction workers in downtown Petah Tiqva. He was seriously injured in the head. The assailants fled the scene and have not yet been caught.

IDF To Prevent Hebron Settlers March

TA2703172194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will prevent the march of the settlers in Hebron on Wednesday. In reaction to media reports, the IDF spokesman wants to make it clear that the IDF command in Judaea and Samaria has not approved the march, slated to be conducted under the slogan "All Israel Is Hebron," and that the IDF will not safeguard it. It was also decided to prevent entry into Hebron on the day of the march to anybody who is not a town resident.

The body of a person suspected of collaboration with Israel, Muhammad 'Ali Abu-'Ata, 28, a resident of the Rimal neighborhood, was found near a garbage dump in Gaza. Local residents told our correspondent Moti Amir that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam members murdered him since he participated in several IDF actions against wanted Hamas people. According to them, more than six months ago Hamas members murdered Abu-'Ata's brother for similar reasons.

Settlers Promised Notice Before Hebron Evacuation

TA2903122894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Mar 94 p 7

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir informed the attorney for the Hebron settlers that no evacuation of Tall al-Rumaythah would take place in the coming 10 days.

The attorney general also said that an evacuation would take place only after proper deliberations are held either in the cabinet or the Knesset and after the settlers are given sufficient time to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

Similar remarks were made yesterday by Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command, to settlement leaders in Hebron and Qiryat Arba'. Gen. Yatom said that if the settlers are uprooted from Hebron it will be done in an orderly and public way and not like "thieves in the night."

Our correspondent Mikhal Goldberg reports that before this promise was made, Uri Qarzan, a Tall al-Rumaythah resident, appealed to the High Court of Justice to order the defense minister and the Army to give 72-hours notice before evacuating Jewish settlers from Hebron. The court will deliberate on the appeal this week.

Likud Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan yesterday called on the prime minister and justice minister to give a week's prior warning before carrying out any evacuation in the territories.

The Hebron march which was due to take place tomorrow will be replaced by a large gathering of settlers in Qiryat Arba' on Thursday, it was decided yesterday following a day of discussions between the settlers and Gen. Yatom and Gen. Sha'ul Mufaz, Army commander in Judaea and Samaria. [passage omitted]

Settlers Prepare New Routes for 'Reinforcements'

TA2803144094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman has learned that over the past several days, settlers from the 'Etzyon Bloc and the Hebron Hills have been touring the Hebron region and marking dozens of alternative routes to the city should the government decide to evacuate Jews. Dov Weinstock, in charge of the 'Etzyon Bloc fields, has said that the settlers will set up some roads to handle vehicles so that reinforcements can arrive in Hebron and help prevent the evacuation.

Reservists Refuse Duty After Commander's 'Suspension'

TA2503150394 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Mar 94 p A4

[Report by Shlomo Dror]

[Text] Settlers from the Hebron area, soldiers in a reserve battalion, have written a letter to Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, in which they declared that following the suspension of their battalion commander, Reserves Major Yisra'el Blumental, they consider themselves discharged from reserve duty. Soldiers serving with the battalion reported that they intended to refuse to do reserve duty and turn in their IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Reserve identity cards.

Blumental, a settler from Qiryat Arba', has been the commander of a regional defense battalion in Hebron for several years. Major General Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command, suspended him after he described Dr. Barukh Goldstein as "a soldier fallen in battle" in a television interview.

News of the suspension was revealed two days ago, during Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq's testimony before the state commission of inquiry on the Hebron massacre. Professor Menahem Ya'ari, a member of the commission, told Baraq that the murderer served in a reserve unit in Qiryat Arba'. During the massacre, Ya'ari noted, he used a weapon which was issued to him by that unit. The commander of that same unit publicy described the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs as a "battle." Ya'ari asked how it could

happen that such a man had been in charge of issuing a weapon to someone who subsequently carried out such a terrible deed.

Baraq declared that to the best of his knowledge, the man had been relieved of his post. "At any rate, this man cannot be permitted to command IDF soldiers, not even reserve troops, especially not in an area like Qiryat Arba', the chief of staff said.

In reaction to this, Nahum Hoss, one of the soldiers in the battalion and an aide to Rabbi Levinger, said: "This is a political ouster. They are bringing politics into the Army. Blumental should be judged according to his professional ability as an officer and not according to some statement, which, in my opinion, was taken out of context. As far as I am concerned, Blumental is an excellent officer who I would follow to any battle. If he is not reinstated as commander of our battalion neither myself nor any of my comrades have anything to look for in an army that serves the government rather than the people."

An injunction issued after the Hebron massacre bars Hoss from carrying weapons. The police have so far not been able to hand him the injunction. Yesterday, Hoss asserted that he would not turn in his weapon. "I must continue defending the lives of my family and myself. I think the Army is mistaken if it thinks that it is serving the country by ignoring our request and doing without our battalion's reserve duty. Many people will follow in our footsteps," he said.

An officer in the battalion, who refused to reveal his name, said: "What would have happened if the Army had ousted an officer who was a member of Peace Now? Did the Army get rid of officers with left-wing views after Mordekhay Vanunu or Udi Adiv [who spied for Syria in the late 1960's]? Yatom should remember that the IDF is the peoples' army and not the army of Meretz.

The officer added that attempts were being made to convince the southern Hebron hills regional defense battalion to join their struggle.

An IDF spokesman said that Maj. Gen. Yatom had indeed decided to suspend Blumental pending an investigation into the matter. Blumental will be summoned for a hearing by Colonel Me'ir Kalifi, the commander of the Hebron Brigade and Major General Sha'ul Mufaz, the commander of IDF forces in the West Bank. They will then decide which steps to take against him.

'At Least Eight' Reservists Refuse Service

TA2803195794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] At least eight reserve soldiers who refused to serve in the territories over the past month were stationed for military service inside the Green Line. Our legal correspondent Shlomo Arad reports that one of them, Yo'el Shem-Tov, was tried and sentenced to 14 days in military prison after refusing to serve in Hebron. His commanders, however, waived the sentence and stationed him at a post which does not conflict with his conscience.

A spokesman for the Yesh Gvul [there is a limit] Movement said, however, that another reservist, Peter Weiner from Tel Aviv, was arrested last night at his home in Tel Aviv after he refused to report for duty with his unit which serves in the territories.

U.S. 'Dual Containment' Policy on Iran-Iraq Questioned

TA2903151994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Mar 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Saudi Arabia is deliberately keeping oil prices low in order to undermine Iran's economy and regime, senior analysts told the political echelon in Jerusalem. The main aim of the Saudi oil policy, according to this evaluation, is to prevent Iran from becoming stronger, which the Saudis fear and are prepared to suffer economically as long as the harm they cause Iran is even greater.

The political echelon was informed that raising the price of oil by several dollars would significantly improve Iran's economy, which has a very heavy foreign debt of $30 billion, of which $8 billion are short-term debts.

Political sources in Jerusalem recently expressed concern about an agreement by Germany, Japan, and Switzerland to reschedule Iran's debts and to offer it new lines of credit. Iran is also negotiating a similar agreement with France. In the view of the analysts, Iran might use the money to purchase dual purpose technology which would permit it to advance its plans to develop nuclear weapons.

The analysts said that the scope of trade between the United States and Iran casts a shadow on the U.S. commitment to isolate Tehran. Iran's trade with the United States is smaller than with the Europeans and the Japanese. It was over $600 million last year, and in 1992 reached some $730 million, which was made up almost entirely of U.S. industrial equipment to Tehran. Iranian exports to the United States were very small, only some $20 million.

Israel warned the West about Iran's aspiration to obtain nuclear arms and its actions to encourage Islamic fundamentalism in the Arab states. Israel's policy was however not to present itself as an enemy of Iran, but to round up international support for a policy of curtailing Iran's rearmament and subversive tactics, and to support a U.S. policy of "dual containment" against Iran and its rival Iraq.

The evaluation recently presented to the political echelon in Jerusalem states that U.S. "dual containment" is no longer a single policy against Tehran and Baghdad. An analysis of a paper published by National Security Adviser Tony Lake in FOREIGN AFFAIRS shows that Washington's policy toward Iraq calls for the overthrow of President Saddam Husayn's regime. Its policy toward Iran is different. The United States is not trying to overthrow the Islamic regime in Iran and wants to influence Tehran to change its behavior and start a dialogue with Washington.

It has, however, reservations about the policies of European states and Japan, which are seen as attempts to advance their business interests with Tehran. The Americans think that improving Iran's economic situation will decrease the regime's extremism. The analysis presented to the political echelon said that Israel early on expected "dual containment" to be expressed in an effort to isolate Iran politically and economically, as the United States had done with the USSR.

Elements in the U.S. intelligence community recently dismissed the Israeli evaluation of Iran's subversive activities in the Arab world. In their view, Iran is trying to keep up its revolutionary image and present itself as having influence in the Middle East way beyond what it really has, and that there is no real Iranian threat to undermine the existing regimes in the Arab states.

The U.S. sources believe that the fundamentalist movements in Egypt enjoy some aid from Iran, but do not want to be Tehran's satellites since they regard themselves as popular Egyptian organizations. Tehran is simultaneously maintaining ties with Husni Mubarak's government. In the U.S. view, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories also does not want to operate as an Iranian satellite.

Aqaba-Bound Ship 'Turned Away' Despite Agreement

JN2903100094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Mar 94 p1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—A German vessel was turned away early Monday [28 March] from the Gulf of Aqaba by the enforcers of the international sanctions against Iraq despite an agreement under which cargo aboard the ship was supposed to have been inspected at al-'Aqabah port, informed sources said.

They said the 13,000-tonne Skyman was denied entry after inspectors aboard the American-led warships patrolling the Red Sea insisted on their own interpretation of an agreement reached with Jordan, the sources said.

Under the accord, the first of its kind since the sanctions against Iraq went into force in August 1990, an inspector from one of the U.S. warships was to aboard the Skyman at the Tiran Straits in the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba and come to the port aboard the vessel to supervise the inspection of the cargo unloaded at the port, the sources said.

"But instead of sending an inspector aboard the vessel, the Americans insisted that the agreement was that a warship will accompany the Skyman to al-'Aqabah," said one of the sources.

"The Jordanian government rejected the suggestion and hence the ship was turned away," added the source, who, like others who confirmed the incident, spoke on condition of anonymity.

According to another source, "Jordan rejected the American suggestion since (the Kingdom) considered the entry of a ship escorted by a warship into Jordanian waters as an infringement of its sovereignty."

Furthermore, said the source, the American insistence on sending a frigate to accompany the Skyman despite Jordan's record of abiding by the sanctions against Iraq was also seen as raising questions on the Kingdom's credibility and sincerity.

His Majesty King Husayn has repeatedly said that Jordan would not allow anyone to question its credibility and sincerity.

When it was known two days ago that the cargo aboard the Skyman—3,000 tonnes of general cargo including steel rods and animal feed—was to be inspected on land at al-'Aqabah port instead of the Tiran Straits, hopes were raised that it could be the forerunner of an arrangement to move all cargo inspections to port.

Under the proposed arrangement, a neutral international agency would inspect all incoming and outgoing cargo for violations of the sanctions against Iraq.

The Skyman was first turned away last Wednesday after four inspections since March 19 failed to satisfy the "cargo accessibility" demands of the inspectors.

Following the denial of entry, for the ship proceeded towards the Gulf Port of Dubai to unload cargo destined there before possibly returning to al-'Aqabah or offloading the Jordan-bound cargo elsewhere the shipowners or consigners—as the case may be subject to the terms and conditions of the bill of lading—to tranship the goods to al-'Aqabah. [sentence as published]

Contacts launched by the Jordanian government led to the agreement for an on-land inspection of the cargo and the Skyman was recalled to the Red Sea, only to be turned away again as happened on Monday.

The Skyman was the seventh ship to be intercepted and subjected to costly delays this year compared with 20 vessels during last year.

U.S. Navy spokesman deny that there is an escalation of interceptions and tightening of inspection procedures despite the high number of ships delayed or forced to offload cargo elsewhere.

Jordan has lodged numerous protests to the U.N. Security Council, which imposed and authorised the enforcement of the sanctions, and the U.S., which is leading the monitoring of the sanctions. The protests highlighted that the actual victim of the overzealous enforcement of the sanctions was Jordan and that the volume of Iraq-bound cargo passing through al-'Aqabah had declined to less than 20 per cent of the pre-Gulf crisis level.

Shipping agents say that Iraq-bound goods passing through Turkey and Iran are six times that coming to al-'Aqabah and point out that Turkish bound and Iran-bound vessels are not subjected to any inspections.

U.S. Plans To Ease al-'Aqabah Blockade Reported

JN2903062494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] A U.S. spokesman has said the United States is studying plans to ease the commercial embargo on the Port of al-'Aqabah. He said one proposal being considered is a plan to inspect ships once they have docked at al-'Aqabah, instead of the current procedure of stopping and searching them before they reach the Port of al-'Aqabah.

The U.S. State Department's Michael McCurry said the United States is examining proposals that are supposed to respond to the Jordanian Government's concerns.

King Links Talks With Israel to Resolving 'Siege'

JN2903091694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Mar 94 p1, 5

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn Monday [28 March] linked Jordan's return to Middle East peace negotiations to lifting a three-year siege of the Port of al-'Aqabah and adopting a "new way of dealing with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

The King told the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council that Jordan's resumption of peace negotiations with Israel was contingent on the immediate resolving of this "completely unacceptable situation and adopting a new way of cooperating with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

A statement released by the International Press Office at the Royal Court said: "His Majesty King Husayn called to his office at the Royal Court today the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to inform them in very clear terms of the pressures and aggravation Jordan faces due to the blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah.

"His Majesty said that since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, the blockade has resulted in great losses with negative repercussions on the Jordanian economy, in addition to the suffering of Jordanian citizens and the losses endured by the commercial sector in Jordan. His Majesty said that it is odd that the such sanctions and such harassment are imposed solely on Jordan and not any other country in the region.

"His Majesty explained to the ambassadors that since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis naval bodies concerned with the implementation of the sanctions have inspected more than 1,700 ships bound for the Gulf of Aqaba. The inspections failed to find any violations of the sanctions or of their cause or aim. His Majesty stressed that not only are these sanctions and the resulting harassments at odds with the historical role that Jordan has assumed in order to achieve security, stability and growth in the region, but also are a direct affront to Jordan's dignity and a violation of to rights. [sentence as published]

"His Majesty stressed that from now on the resumption of Jordan's involvement in the peace-making process to establish a just and lasting peace for the benefit of the entire region is contingent upon immediately addressing this completely unacceptable situation and on finding a new way of cooperating with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

Attending the meeting with King Husayn were Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir and the King's Political advisor Marwan al-Qasim.

The interceptions are part of a U.S.-led effort to enforce the international sanctions that were imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Jordan, which has suffered large losses because of the sanctions against Iraq, has repeatedly complained of the problems the enforcement of the sanctions poses and suggested that sea searches be replace by less disruptive land inspection at the Port of al- 'Aqabah.

Washington said it was studying the proposal, which involves a neutral international body such as Lloyds register inspecting the cargo.

Since early this year, the interceptions of ships headed for al-'Aqabah have gone up, causing costly delays to Jordanian importers.

But the U.S. Navy denied the allegation. "There has been no change in guidelines and no change in our procedures," Lieutenant-Commander Bruce Cole, spokesman for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command headquaters in the Gulf was quoted as saying by the Associated Press.

But official figures show seven ships have been turned back or delayed for periods of up to four days this year, compared to 20 in all of 1993.

Three vessels in March were given extra searches before docking, including demands to see every package, complaints of unclear mainfests and even a protest of "stinging bees in the haches of ships" shipping agents quoted by Reuter said.

The Lower House of Parliament last week urged the government not to return to the U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace talks before the siege of al-'Aqabah is lifted.

UN Official Briefed on Effects of Port Inspections

JN2803190694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Khaldun Abu-Hassan, head of the Amman Chamber of Industry, has met with (Jeng Huang Wan), secretary of the UN Sanctions Committee. They reviewed the status of the industrial sector in Jordan as a result of the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the measures being taken in the Red Sea, which delay the arrival of imports and increase their costs, thus increasing the cost of Jordanian products and reducing their competitiveness. Details are in the following report:

Khaldun Abu-Hassan told the UN official that Jordan feels it is being targeted by these measures. He said that the cost of these measures increases the cost of shipping every tonne of goods by $15, which constitutes an additional cost to Jordan amounting to approximately $600 million per year. He noted that the measures have also resulted in damaging some of the goods that undergo inspection. He added that delays in the arrival of these goods has also forced exporters to pay fines to the parties who have ordered these good.

He said that preventing the import of certain raw materials from Iraq resulted in increasing the cost of local production, which is the case with importing sulfur that led to an increase in the cost of producing fertilizers in Jordan.

Abu-Hassan noted that Jordan was affected by the Gulf crisis on a larger scale by losing some of its traditional markets, not including Iraq, and the return of thousands of Jordanians working in the Gulf states. This, he added, has affected the Jordanian economy and increased poverty and unemployment.

The head of the Chamber of Industry said that the UN Sanctions Committee's resolution is not based on firm standards, noting that if it sometimes allows the export of

a certain commodity to Iraq, it does not mean that it will allow the continuous export of this commodity.

For his part, Mr. (Jeng), secretary of the UN Sanctions Committee, reaffirmed that Jordan is not being targeted by the sanctions but is being affected by them. He noted that the Sanctions Committee is aware that Jordan is the second country after Iraq that is being harmed by the sanctions. He said that he would present a memorandum from the Chamber of Industry to the UN Sanctions Committee and will brief them on Jordan's situation.

The two sides discussed a proposal by the chamber to send a delegation representing the various sectors harmed by the sanctions to express their viewpoint to the Sanctions Committee and hold contacts with the Jordanian Government to discuss and arrange this visit. (Jeng) expressed willingness to follow up this proposal.

In another development, Muhammad 'Asfur, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, received a Canadian economic delegation, including a number of businessmen and representatives of Canadian companies. A number of Jordanian businessmen attended.

'Asfur reviewed Jordanian-Canadian economic relations, the economic situation in Jordan, the negative effects of the siege on the port of al-'Aqabah, the losses and the increase in the prices of commodities and products that have resulted from inspections and from other measures taken under the pretext of implementing UN resolutions.

The guest delegation expressed its understanding of Jordan's stands and economic situation and its willingness to increase and reinforce trade and economic exchange between the two friendly countries. The delegation also expressed a desire to exert efforts to lift the siege on the ships bound for the port of al-'Aqabah.

Paper Views King's Call for End to Aqaba 'Siege'

JN2903100894 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Mar 94 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Let the Farce of al-'Aqabah Blockade Stop"]

[Text] After drawn-out patience and strong adherence to quiet diplomacy, His Majesty King Husayn placed the issue of al-'Aqabah blockade in its proper place when he summoned the ambassadors of the five permanent Security Council member states and informed them in very clear terms of the pressures and harassments Jordan is facing due to the blockade imposed on Jordan's only port.

It is obvious that this blockade, which has been continuing for several years, is not aimed only at inflicting losses on the national economy and increasing the difficulties arising from the Gulf war, but also undermining national dignity and inflicting political harm on a country that has always been an element of stability and moderation in the region.

Had the naval siege of the port of al-'Aqabah been the result of the Gulf war, not only Jordan-bound ships would have been searched to the exclusion of other countries in the region. No such arbitrary inspection is carried out in any of the ports of other states which have not attached great importance to the Iraq-related sanctions resolutions.

Moreover, inspecting more than 1,700 ships bound for al-'Aqabah during the last few years without detecting any violation of the blockade or its causes should have caused an end to such a naval farce if the blockade of al-'Aqabah was really linked to the issue of the embargo imposed on Iraq.

Accordingly, it has long been clear to us that those besieging the Port of al-'Aqabah are aiming at something else. They are trying to dictate to us policies and positions that neither agree with our national and pan-Arab considerations nor conform with our priorities and concepts of the developments of the current peace process in the Middle East.

Hence, the position His Majesty King Husayn expressed to the ambassadors of the permanent member states of the Security Council was starkly clear in projecting the fact that this blockade and these harassments undermine the historic role Jordan has always played in its capacity as a principal element of moderation in a region that suffered and continues to suffer from successive waves of extremism.

Given such a situation, Jordan, which counted much on quiet diplomacy to end the siege imposed on its only port, cannot and will not play its vital role in making peace before this totally unacceptable situation has been promptly addressed in a manner that respects the Jordanian will and refrains from doing anything that harms it.

'Siege' of al-'Aqabah Shows 'Contempt'

JN2903102294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Mar 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Frank, Clear Stand in Meeting With Ambassadors"]

[Text] Yesterday, King Husayn was, as always, clear and frank in his meeting with the ambassadors of the five major powers. The king briefed them on the pressures and harassments to which Jordan has been subjected as a result of the al-'Aqabah port siege and the inspection operations of ships bound for the port, and the subsequent losses, the harm done to our national economy, and the suffering of our merchants and citizens.

Taking into consideration the fact that these measures and this treatment are confined to Jordan to the exclusion of other neighboring states and countries, we realize the extent of the contempt in which the major powers and the international organizations to which these powers are affiliated are holding Jordan. This is an encroachment on our country's sovereignty and a denial of its historic role and great responsibilities in establishing peace, stability, and progress in the region.

Therefore, the king emphasized the need to stop these practices and end this completely unacceptable situation

and deal with Jordan in a new method, preserving its dignity and respecting its right and role.

In his meeting with the ambassadors, his majesty linked Jordan's resumption of its role in the process of just and durable peace to this abnormal situation and asserted that the resumption of Jordan's responsible role in peacemaking is contingent on the cessation of these practices and on ceasing any acts that harm Jordan's sovereignty, harass and annoy ships bound for al-'Aqabah, or harm the trade sector and the Jordanian citizens.

We have tolerated enough harassment and siege and endured unjustifiable inspection operations of ships—an inspection which did not produce any violations related to the siege. The major powers, the UN Security Council, and the United Nations must realize that nations have sovereignty and that they should respect this sovereignty rather than become tools of injustice, oppression, and enslavement of peoples, and that they should abide by their own preaching of respect for people's freedom and human rights.

PLO Envoy Arrives To Brief Officials on Cairo Talks

JN2803213794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] A special envoy of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman this evening to brief Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis, which will resume in Cairo tomorrow.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, Hakam Bal'awi said that his visit to Amman reaffirms the close relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people, which has crossed the stage of cooperation and coordination to the stage of joint cohesion between the two peoples in the present and the future to face outside challenges.

He added that he is carrying the visions and ideas of the Palestinian leadership toward the peace process, noting that it is concerned about briefing Jordan on all its moves in order to achieve a just, comprehensive, and durable peace that responds to the ambitions of the Palestinians people and the Arab nation.

He said that he will brief the Jordanian leadership on the circumstances that preceded and followed UN Security Council Resolution 904, especially in terms of the PLO's concern about protecting the Palestinian people and maintaining the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state.

'Positive Stand' Conveyed to al-Majali

JN2903171494 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] At a meeting between Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Hakam Bal'awi, representative of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Amman last night, the latest developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track were reviewed.

Bal'awi conveyed the Palestinian leadership's ideas on the current stage of Palestinian-Israeli talks to the Jordanian Government, and the circumstances that surrounded the adoption of Security Council Resolution 904.

[Begin recording] [Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs and information minister] His excellency the prime minister today received Hakam Bal'awi who, in my opinion, presented a positive stand that covered many issues. We explained to him our viewpoint, which I explained in detail earlier, regarding our position on the Jerusalem issue. I think that, henceforth, we need to coordinate our positions on Jerusalem because this subject, as you know, is an Arab, Palestinian, Jordanian, Islamic, and Christian subject. The responsibility toward this subject is very great.

[Bal'awi] I had the honor to meet with his excellency the prime minister this morning. I am here as the envoy of President 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership to brief the Jordanian brothers on all details that preceded and followed the recent security council resolution, and on all Palestinian contacts with the Israelis and Americans on developments in the situation following the massacre in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. Undoubtedly, the brothers in Jordan closely follow all these speedy and important details. We should work together in all fields. We are not neighbors, but one people in the same geographic area. We work together and our capabilities are devoted to attaining the Palestinian independence that will eventually enhance the Jordanian independence, which will then create the forthcoming Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion which, God willing, will be a living model for the future, civilized Arab situation in this area. [end recording]

Minister Returns From Arab League Meetings

JN2803210894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Test] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that the meetings of the Arab League Council, which ended in Cairo yesterday, tackled the issues of Arab solidarity and reconciliation within the issue of pan-Arab security. This came in statements to our political affairs correspondent Shakir Maharimah upon the minister's return from Cairo this evening.

[Begin recording] [Al-Hasan] Foremost of the many issues discussed by the Political Committee were the Arab-Israeli conflict, the issue of Jerusalem, and the intifadah. Jordan made a lengthy comment on this issue. We reviewed the peace process and the Jordanian stand that condemned the massacre perpetrated in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque as well as our stand on UN Security Council Resolution 904. We also reviewed His Majesty King Husayn's efforts toward this issue and the Jordanian measures aimed at expressing condemnation of the horrific massacre and at showing concern and pressuring the international community to take measures to protect the Palestinian people.

[Maharimah] Your excellency, What about your bilateral contacts during the current session of the Arab League Council?

[Al-Hasan] During my visit to Cairo, I held a series of bilateral contacts. I met with a number of brother Arab foreign ministers. I met with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Oman, and Yemen. I also met with the foreign minister of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, the new 22d member in the Arab League Council. I also had the honor of meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi. We discussed bilateral issues of interest to both countries as well as a number of Arab, regional, and international issues. [end recording]

Al-Majali Calls For Arab Solidarity

NC2703103894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0812 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Amman, 27 Mar (MENA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has stated that the Joint Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Committee chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries will hold its next meeting in Amman during the first week of April. He said that postponement of the meeting, which was supposed to take place in the second half of March, was due to special circumstances concerning officials in Egypt.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. al-Majali called for Arab reconciliation, saying that Jordan sincerely extends its hand to Arab brothers for solidarity. He said: I think that this matter is very essential, especially as there is a system being worked out for the region, and we are afraid that it will be worked out without consulting us. This will not be to our advantage. Therefore, we must have Arab understanding and solidarity, and determine the system acceptable to us in the region.

Regarding the peace negotiations, the Jordanian prime minister pointed out that the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington must take place following agreement by the Arab countries concerned. Jordan cannot adopt a separate decision in this regard. He said that this subject might be discussed on the sidelines of the meetings of the Arab League foreign ministers council currently being held in Cairo. He emphasized that no date has been set for a meeting of the Arab states concerned with the peace process.

Answering a question, Dr. al-Majali denied that any prior arrangements had been made for a Jordanian-Saudi summit meeting during King Husayn's visit to Saudi Arabia for the minor pilgrimage. He said that the Jordanian monarch's visit was only to perform this religious rite.

Islamic-Leftist Coalition Urges Talks' Pullout

JN2903103194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Mar 94 p 3

[By Mariam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—an Islamist/leftist coalition Monday [28 March] marked the one-month anniversary of the Hebron massacre by calling on Arab and Muslim governments to pull out of peace negotiations with Israel.

"We, together with the Arab masses, must continue to exert pressure on the Arab regimes and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to give up the policy of surrender and stop their negotiations with the Zionist entity," read a joint statement issued by the two Jordanian political parties, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and the National Action Front (NAF).

"Our conflict with the Zionist enemy is the struggle over existence not over borders," said the statement.

The coalition leaders, which include IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan and former leftist radicals Muhammad al-Zu'bi, Naji Allush and Breik Hadid, asked the "Arab nation to resist all attempts of normalisation with the Zionist enemy," during a joint press conference."

"We warn the Arab regimes and the Arab League of the dangers inherent in lifting the boycott of the Zionist entity," read their joint statement. To lift the boycott, said the group, would constitute the imposition of further "Zionist domination and occupation."

The coalition, also known as the United Front, said it held the media partially responsibly for supporting the peace process.

"We call on the free and honest press to shoulder its responsibilities in highlighting the plight of Palestine and to actively counter normalisation policies in all their forms as well as to expose the cheap writers promoting normalisation with the Zionist enemy," said the statement.

The IAF, recognised as Jordan's most powerful political party, and NAF a relatively new political party, announced that they were "coalition partners" in early March. Their declared aim is to "resist Zionist designs and new world order strategies to disrupt the Middle East region," according to IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan.

The NAF, which only received official political party licence in January, is composed mostly of hardline pan-Arab nationalist parties and groups, many of whom were outlawed in Jordan before democratic reforms were introduced in 1989.

The coalition between the two parties was formed after the February killing of worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron and the subsequent attack on a Maronite church in Lebanon.

The two parties declared that they had an "historic responsibility" to work together to actively oppose the normalisation of Arab countries with Israel.

Explosion Suspects To Stand Trial in Apr

JN2803111194 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Mar 94 p 12

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Twenty-three people charged with plotting and carrying out attacks aimed at destabilising internal security will be put on trial in mid-April, official sources said Sunday [27 March].

The sources said the case, which was supposed to have gone on trial before the military tribunal shortly after the 'Id al-Fitr holiday this month, was delayed because the questioning of some of the suspects was not completed.

"The interrogations are continuing, and the charge sheet is being drawn up," said one source.

According to the source, the 23 suspects, all of whom are in detention, would be tried as one group charged with "plotting and carrying out terrorist activities and illegal possession of explosives."

The suspects were filtered from more than 40 people questioned after the Jan. 26 and Feb. 1 explosions at Amman's Rivoli and al-Zarqa's Salwa movie theatres. Both theatres were showing pornographic movies and the blasts gave rise to suspicions that religious zealots were behind them.

The sources said some of the suspects belonged to the so-called Arab Afghan group—volunteers from Arab countries who fought alongside Afghans in the 1980-90 battle against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan—while others were locally recruited by them.

Asked whether it was established who financed the sabotage in Jordan, the source declined direct comment, but said that "all the suspects were guided by a single group-...which sought to create chaos and undermine the internal security of the country."

Interior Minister Salamah Hammad told Parliament in February that authorities had uncovered a plot to destabilise Jordan through a series of attacks on theatres, videocassette and liquor shops, nightclubs and security forces.

Yemeni government officials, who faced a spate of similar explosions in their country several months ago, have been quoted as saying that Usamah Bin-Ladin, a Saudi millionaire of Yemeni origin who supported the "Arab Afghans", was suspected to have financed those who carried out the attacks in Yemen.

Mr. Bin-Ladin, who has been disowned by his Saudi-based tribe and family, is believed to be living in Khartoum, Sudan. Reports in the Egyptian press have indicated him as a main supporter of extremist military groups waging a violent campaign to topple the government of President Husni Mubarak.

There was no immediate confirmation or denial of whether the Jordanian investigators suspected Mr. Bin-Ladin or any of his associates of involvement in the bombings in the Kingdom.

At least six of the suspects have confessed to have planted the explosive devices that went off at the Rivoli and Salwa theatres as well as others which were discovered at a supermarket outside Amman and the Zahran cinema, local reports said.

Arabic-language papers carried photographs of the suspects, all of whom appeared to be in their early 20s, accompanied by prosecutors and police officers, reenacting the planting of the bombs at these places after confessing during interrogations.

No background details were available on any of the suspects.

The sources said most of them are from lower middle class families and some of them would be charged as accessories before and after the crime.

It was not clear from the reports how many of the suspects knew each other. They were all said to have worked separately, as small groups, unaware of each other, under the guidance of one or more people.

According to the reports, one of the suspects, Muhammad 'Adaribah, told interrogators that he tried and failed to plant a bomb at the Rivoli, in downtown Amman, one week before the Jan. 26 blast.

The device, described as a time-bomb that actually went off inside the theatre at midnoon, was planted by another suspect, Yasin Zahrah, the reports said. Seven people were injured in the blast.

The youth who planted the bomb which was discovered and defused at Amman's Zahran cinema was identified as Samir Ahmad, who told police that he was asked to plant the bomb by Muhammad Shihadah, a construction material salesman from the al-Baq'ah refugee camp.

Mr. Ahmad was reported to have met Mr. Shihadah, described as an Arab Afghan, in front of the al-Husayni Mosque in downtown Amman to inform him that he had planted the bomb inside the theatre.

Mr. Shihadah, who is also under detention, was also implicated in the al-Zarqa' bombing by the man who confessed to have planted the device, 'Id Jahalin, a 30-year-old plumber from al-Baq'ah.

Mr. Jahalin lost his limbs in the explosion when the bomb exploded prematurely. His confession from his hospital bed is believed to have been the most significant breakthrough in the case.

The suspects also took interrogators to 'Akrush Supermarket in Safut, which straddles the main road between Amman and al-Baq'ah camp, and reenacted the planting of the device which was discovered and defused there a few days before the Rivoli blast.

Mr. Zahrah, the man who reportedly confessed to the Rivoli explosion, was also identified as the one who planted the bomb at the supermarket.

Another target of the suspects was the sprawling Housing Bank complex in the heart of Amman, according to the reports.

Some of the suspects showed interrogators how "they cased the joint to determine where to plant the bombs" but no explosives were actually placed in the complex.

Apart from Mr. 'Adaribah, Mr. Zahrah, Mr. Ahmad, Mr. Shihadah and Mr. Jahalin, other suspects identified by name included Hasan Hamdan and Sulayman Biyah.

All the bombs were said to have used crude technology widely employed by the Afghan rebels in their battle against the Red Army and Soviet-supported government soldiers in Afghanistan.

The bombing case is the second known organised sabotage attributed to "Arab Afghans" in Jordan.

In 1991, members of a group called "Jaysh Muhammad (Muhammad's Army)" made up mostly of Afghan returnees were arrested following a series of attacks and foiled attempts against night-clubs, cinemas, liquor shops and security officers as well as government buildings and diplomatic missions.

Eighteen of them were tried and convicted; eight of them, two in absentia, were given the death sentence, and others were jailed for terms ranging from two years to 15 years.

His Majesty King Husayn later commuted the death sentences to life imprisonment for the six who appeared in court.

In a Feb. 15 meeting with the members of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Upper House of Parliament, the King referred to the late spate of sabotage actions and said a "small group" with foreign links was responsible for them.

"There are certain parties and circles trying to reach and influence our youth who are in vulnerable positions," the King said.

The influenced youth, he said, "are goaded into committing crimes," and "the parties and circles seek to reach the weak and strong points of our people—our religion and faith."

"We have warned against such attempts to distort our faith and our Islam, and we have often called for action to prevent matters from getting out of hand or beyond reason," the King said.

Austrian Award to Salman Rushdie Protested

JN2803131394 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Mar 94 p 12

[Text] A delegation representing the Council of Islamic Organizations and Societies and the Muslim World League's bureau in Amman met with the Austrian ambassador to Jordan and conveyed to him a memorandum protesting his government's decision to give this year's $30,000-award for European literature to Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie, author of Satanic Verses.

The book slanders and lies about all prophets, especially Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and members of his family.

The delegation told the ambassador that giving the award to Rushdie is a deliberate hostile action and is considered a challenge to the feelings of Muslims. The delegation said this was what U.S. President Bill Clinton had done when he invited Salman Rushdie to go to the United States from Britain, received him at the White House, and encouraged him to continue his anti-Islam and Muslims march.

The delegation added that the Austrian Government had committed a serious action, one which influences its relations and friendship with the Arab and Islamic states.

At the end of the meeting, the ambassador promised to convey the memorandum to his government.

Buwayz Returns From Cairo Meeting, Comments

NC2803191794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned from Cairo this afternoon after taking part in the 101st session of the Arab League Ministerial Council. At the airport, Minister Buwayz made a statement in which he said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] You returned from Cairo today, after taking part in the 101st session of the Arab League Council. How do you assess the work of that session, particularly in relation to Lebanon?

[Buwayz] This conference was certainly held amid critical regional conditions. It involved sensitive topics, which we noted before leaving Beirut, primarily lifting the boycott and amending the League Charter. The most important thing during that session was the postponement of these sensitive issues, because we feel that conditions are not favorable for a change. The causes that led to and justified them at a certain stage still exist.

I believe that this session was very wise in overcoming some challenges and certain differences in views. Hence, it studied the agenda in depth and postponed discussion of a number of points that the League thought it was premature to review.

[Correspondent] You certainly carried the problem of the south with you to that conference. How was Arab solidarity regarding the ongoing Israeli aggression against the south?

[Buwayz] I believe that Arab solidarity concerning the issue of the south, Palestine, and all other Arab issues under consideration is very serious. It is not the idea of solidarity that counts; it is how we apply this solidarity that counts. I can say that the Arab League's work mechanism had earlier been submitted for discussion. I hope Arab accord will be further enhanced to help the League express this solidarity and unity.

[Correspondent] You held a number of meetings on the sidelines of the conference. Can you give us an idea about their outcome?

[Buwayz] Just like any other conference, this meeting gave the opportunity to hold side meetings. I held a number of intensive meetings with Arab foreign ministers, including Their Excellencies 'Amr Musa, Faruq al-Shar', the Qatari foreign minister, and others. I also held several meetings with the Arab League secretary general.

[Correspondent] Will the secretary general pay a visit to Lebanon soon?

[Buwayz] I believe that his excellency the Arab League secretary general will visit Lebanon in mid April to open the Arab League's legal center, which has selected Lebanon as a base. [end recording]

Al-Hariri Views Commitment to Continued Resistance

PM2803135094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din: "Al-Hariri: State Not Applying Double Standards"]

[Excerpts] Paris—[Lebanese] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has reiterated his accusation of Israeli involvement in inciting elements from the Lebanese Forces to blow up the Sayyidat al-Najah Church. However, he said that the Forces cannot be accused as a party until the outcome of the investigations is known. The disbandment of the Forces party was the result of an "administrative-political decision." He stressed that the authorities are not applying double standards when dealing with the parties and that the Lebanese resistance is to continue.

Al-Hariri was speaking to a number of Lebanese journalists in Paris following his meeting with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri said that "all the measures we are taking are aimed at strengthening the situation. Lebanon is targeted. It is no secret.... Lebanon represents a challenge to Israel after peace [is achieved], because the stage ahead will witness an economic challenge."

Asked about the Lebanese Forces' responsibility for the church blast, he said: "We are not accusing the Forces, but, rather, elements [from them]. As for the party's disbandment, it was the result of an administrative-political decision based on a number of pieces of information available to the judiciary and security services. The issue was raised with the Council of Ministers and a decision was taken." [passage omitted]

Asked whether the decision to disband the Forces is a prelude to hitting Hizballah, he said: "Until an agreement is reached with Israel on its withdrawal from Lebanon, the resistance issue remains a red line which cannot be touched. We, the country, and the government have paid heavy prices for the sake of safeguarding the Lebanese' right to resist, and we will not stop it. This is settled. As for actions outside the resistance, they are unacceptable and will not be overlooked. Their perpetrators will be judged like anyone else. The resistance is limited to a certain area. Any actions outside this area will certainly not be overlooked."

Asked about Christians' fears that the resistance might contribute to reinforcing sectarian sentiments, he said: "If Samir Ja'ja' comes and decides to resist Israel and the state treats him differently from Hizballah, then the talk (about fears) is true." He pointed out that he has not made any contacts with Ja'ja' since the Lebanese Forces' arrest and the party's disbandment. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Returns From Arab League Session

JN2803154594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned from Cairo today after taking part in the meetings of the 101st session of the Arab League. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Receives Lebanese Delegation

JN2803143894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] At 1200 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Joseph Haddad, head of the Lebanese People's Front, and the delegation accompanying him. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

Qaddurah Hosts Pakistani Delegation

JN2803155194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah today received a Pakistani parliamentary delegation, led by Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the Pakistani National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Syrian People's Assembly; Hasan Sibahi, member of the Syrian People's Assembly; and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus.

The discussions dealt with parliamentary relations, cooperation and coordination, exchanges of parliamentary delegations, and means to reinforce parliamentary ties to serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples. Talks also covered the peace process and the issue of Kashmir.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi also received the Pakistani parliamentary delegation, led by Maulana Fazlur Rahman, at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, Hasan Sibahi, and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus.

Discussion dealt with existing bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Polish Trade Union Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN2703173894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] A delegation from the All-Polish Trade Unions Agreement [OPZZ] led by its chairman, Mrs. Ewa Spychalska, arrived in Damascus at noon today on a four-day visit to Syria. The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by comrade 'Izz-al-Din Nasir, head of the General Federation of Trade Unions [GFTU]; the comrade members of the GFTU Executive Bureau; the comrade head and members of the Damascus Trade Union Federation; and several comrade trade unionists.

Mrs. Spychalska, made a statement to a SANA correspondent. She said that her visit to Syria is cordial and that she hopes to meet with comrade 'Izz-al-Din Nasir in order to consolidate the relations of cooperation between the Syrian GFTU and the Polish OPZZ and to foster coordination between the two sides in order to cooperate in all fields that serve the interests of both organizations.

She added that the second objective of this visit is to hold talks on coordination between the two organizations in order to prepare for the meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions, which will convene in Syria in the last quarter of this year.

Arab Fund To Cofinance Power Plant Development

JN2303163794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Mar 94

[Text] A 30 million Kuwaiti dinars loan agreement was signed at the State Planning Commission with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development [AFESD] at noon today.

The loan will cofinance an electrical power plant in Zayzun, in the al-Ghab area. The plant comprises three gas units, with a capacity of 130 megawatts per unit.

The agreement was signed for the Syrian Arab Republic by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, in the presence of Kamil al-Baba, minister of electricity. The agreement was signed for the AFESD by 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hamad, the fund's director general and board chairman. [passage omitted]

DPRK Education Official Concludes Visit

JN2903064394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Choe Ki-chong, chairman of the DPRK Education Committee, and his delegation left Damascus this evening after a three-day visit to Syria during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

He was seen off at Damascus international airport by Education Minister Muhammad Ghassan al-Halabi and the DPRK ambassador in Damascus.

The guest minister held educational talks on means of promoting educational relations through the implementation of the Syrian-DPRK cultural agreement.

Afghanistan

Dostam-Golboddin Troops Shell Kabul

LD2503151894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 25 Mar 94

[Text] The Dostam-Golboddin militia today targeted rockets and mortar shells on the residential areas of Kabul. A security source told the military correspondent of BIA that today's rockets, which were generally fired from the east and landed in crowded areas of the city, caused the martyrdom of a large number of our innocent and defenseless compatriots. Among them, one of the infamous militia's rockets landed in crowded point in the city center, as a result of which [number indistinct] of our compatriots were martyred and some others were injured. [sentence indistinct] The rocket firing of the rebellious militia, besides causing loss of life, caused much material damage to the residents of Kabul.

'At Least' 25 Killed

BK2703085094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] There has been an escalation of fighting between warring factions in the Afghan capital of Kabul. According to reports, at least 25 persons were killed. Of them, four were killed in cluster bomb attacks launched from aircraft on a popular market. More than 20 persons were also injured in the attack. Scores of rockets were fired on the capital of which one landed on a group of mourners at a funeral, killing nine of them. The fighting began on Friday evening and is reported to be the most intensive in more than two weeks.

Hezb-Eslami Official Calls for End to War

LD2803170494 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Islamabad, March 28, IRNA—A prominent member of Afghan Premier Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], Qazi Amin Waqqad, today called for cessation of the ongoing civil war in Afghanistan.

In his statement, Waqqad referred to the civil war as a factor marring the image of Islam and responsible for the destruction of Afghanistan.

He added that he has called on the belligerent parties to bury the hatchet and initiate peace efforts.

The statment reads that Afghan people are in need of a healthy system, peace and security, and those in authority should not resort to arms which were used for the sacred defence of Afghanistan (against Soviet occupation), to mar the image of Islam and destroy the country.

The statement issued in response to the press release of Hezb-e Eslami, criticized Hekmatyar for his recent claims. In a statement which appeared in press on Sunday [27 March] Hekmatyar had claimed that his party had not nomiated Waqqad to any post nor does the post of deputy leader exists in his party.

Waqqad in his statement named himself as one of the founders of the Hezb-e Eslami and said Hekmatyar's recent claims were to please his new comrades.

Iran

Armenians Accused of Downing Iranian Plane

Action Criticized

NC2703094194 Paris AFP in English 0923 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 27 (AFP)—An Islamic newspaper on Sunday accused Armenians of shooting down the Iranian plane which crashed in war-torn Nagorno-Karabakh killing 34 people and criticised the government for its silence.

"All the evidence shows that Armenia is responsible for the tragedy, the most important of which is the fact that the site of the crash is occupied by Armenian forces," JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

The C-130 Hercules transport plane was carrying 13 crew members and 19 relatives of Iranian diplomats in Moscow when it crashed March 17 near Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-majority enclave in Azerbaijan fighting for independence since 1988.

The plane was on a flight from Moscow to Tehran.

Armenians and Azerbaijanis have accused each other of shooting down the plane, but Tehran has remained silent pending an investigation.

Iranian foreign ministry and air force experts have visited the crash site to investigate the incident.

However, Tehran Radio said Sunday that the investigation committee had not been able to find the plane's black box.

The team met Armenian Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan in Yerevan on Saturday and were to leave for Georgia on Sunday and then on to Azerbaijan to continue their investigation.

A foreign ministry official said last week that the plane had exploded in mid-air, denying earlier reports that the crash resulted from technical problems.

The daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, close to Islamic hardliners, criticised the ministry for keeping silent and urged it to "reveal the truth and not allow the Armenian crime to be eclipsed."

It also urged the government to pressure the Armenians into accepting responsibility for the "crime" and compensating the relatives of the victims.

Meanwhile, the English-language TEHRAN TIMES blamed the war over Nagorno-Karabakh for the "spilling

of Iranian blood" in the crash and urged Armenians to show "goodwill" in accepting an Iranian-mediated settlement.

More than 20,000 people have been killed in six years of fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijani forces. Iran has launched several peace initiatives but without success.

Foreign Ministry Comments

LD2803135894 Tehran IRNA in English 1349 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry on Monday confirmed that Armenian troops deployed in Karabakh region had shot down an Iranian plane, killing all 32 passengers and crew members aboard.

"This bitter incident is a clear proof of the tense situation in Karabakh which endangers the lives of innocent people and those of foreign nationals," the Foreign Ministry said in its statement.

The Iranian aircraft, a C-130 Hercules, was flying from Moscow to Tehran with families of Iranian diplomats in Russia on board on March 17, when it exploded in mid air over Karabakh after being hit by a missile fired by Armenian troops based in the region, shortly after the plane had contacted Yerevan control tower at 19:10 GMT.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to take legal action... and receive compensations for the victims of the crash, and calls on the Armenian Government to identify and punish those guilty of downing the aircraft," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

It expressed regret that tension in Karabakh not only has caused heavy casualties and losses but has also endangered flight security in the region.

Those trying to fan the flame of war and heighten tension in the region should bear the consequences of such painful incidents, it warned.

The Foreign Ministry statement was based on a report filed by a team of Iranian experts dispatched to the site of crash to probe the incident.

Plane 'Forced' To Alter Flight Path

LD2803153494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry has said that, according to the report prepared by the fact-finding team, the reason why our country's C-130 aircraft crashed in the Karabakh region was the forced alteration of its flight path, the lack of air traffic assistance and guidance from the region's control towers, and the impact of a missile fired by the Armenian forces stationed in the Karabakh region.

The Foreign Ministry, while reserving the right for the Islamic Republic of Iran to pursue the downing of the aircraft through legal and judicial means and to seek compensation for the victims, has called on the Armenian Government to identify and punish the perpetrators of this painful incident.

Tehran Expels Norwegian Consul

LD2703100394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] Arne Lonbe, the second highest official and the consul of the Norwegian Embassy in Tehran, has been expelled due to acts incompatible with diplomatic norms.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry announced: For this reason, the ambassador of Norway to Tehran was summoned to our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry before noon today. He was informed of the news, and it was decided that he should leave the Islamic Republic of Iran's territory by 4 April 1994.

Velayati To Depart on 6-Nation African Tour

LD2803144994 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 28 Mar 94

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is to leave here today for Conakry on a six-nation tour of Africa which will take him to Guinea, Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, and Namibia.

Political observers deem the visits as "very important" and in line with bilateral interests for further strengthening of political, economic and cultural ties as well as regional and international cooperation.

In the pre-revolution era, Africa was ignored by the shah's regime which had ties with only certain African countries such as the racist South African regime. However, the following the triumph of the Islamic revolution in 1079, Iran severed its relations with the racist South African regime upon the orders of the father of the Islamic revolution the late Imam Khomeini, and expanded its ties with sub-Saharan African countries.

Islamic Republic of Iran now has established ties with 20 African countries at the ambassadorial level and "very sincere" relations with many others, but is yet to develop healthy economic ties with them.

The six African countries which Velayati is to visit are rich in gold, diamonds, silver, bauxite, zinc, iron, copper, tin and cobalt as well as in such agricultural products as coffee, cocoa, tea, rice, cotton, sugar cane and pineapple.

Iran can have favourable cooperation with the said countries and can invest in their mineral and agricultural sectors in favour of common interests.

However, Iran has no direct aerial and marine transportation links with the said countries to promote economic cooperation.

Contrary to Iran, the European Community, U.S., Japan and even the Zionist regime have embarked on economic

investments in sub-Saharan Africa unilaterally to plunder the rich natural resources of the deprived continent.

Minister: OPEC Sells Oil at 'Unrealistic Price'

LD2803105294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Mar 94

["Exclusive" interview with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Aqazadeh, considering the decision by OPEC to maintain its production ceiling, please give us your assessment of this decision. Why was this decision made? What effects will it have on the oil market?

[Aqazadeh] Fortunately, this year the Majles and the government had predicted from the start that the current situation would continue. Therefore, in the government's proposal, a considerable reduction of income from oil had been predicted, and the Majles reduced the government's proposal. The figure this year is less than the figure for last year. Hence, the concerns that the government and Majles had in mind the situation of the market.... [pauses] They made the required decisions regarding this situation.

Of course, on the other hand, with the commissioning of certain major projects in the country, the demand for currency has been reduced. For example, our own ministry—which was a major consumer—our demand for currency has fallen considerably compared to previous years.

We hope that the changes in the oil market will not affect our macroeconomics [eqtesad-e kalan] too much. What has upset us, however, is that oil is being sold at an unrealistic price. This, on the whole, is not to the benefit of oil producers.

[Correspondent] Mr. Engineer, considering the OPEC decision and your remarks, the price of oil will probably either remain the same or go down. What is your prediction for the second quarter of the year about the price of oil, taking into account that summer is approaching and there will less domestic demand?

[Aqazadeh] Yes. Let me say that when we faced the non-reduction in production in OPEC, a number of ministers proposed that the same production ceiling should be kept for the third and fourth quarter of the Christian year. Our decision is for nine months [sentence as heard]. This decision was made because our current difficulty is the second quarter. In the third and fourth quarters, demand will go up automatically, and the production ceiling can be in balance with the demand of that time.

* Methods for Sale of Government Units

94LA0113A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Mar 94 pp 1, 15

[Text] Economics Division. New guidelines on the procedures for transferring the shares of government corporations and companies, setting their prices, and selling them for installment payments were approved by the Economic Council.

RESALAT's economics correspondent reports that yesterday afternoon Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, vice president of the republic and chief of the Plan and Budget Organization, gave a press conference in which he discussed the new guidelines on the procedures for transferring the shares of transferable corporations and companies belonging to the government and government organizations and companies, and for setting their prices and selling them for installment payments.

He discussed Article 4 of the measure enacted by the Council of Ministers concerning the transfer of the shares of government companies, whose priority has been given to the stock market. He said: According to this article, other methods may also be used for the transfer of the shares.

The vice president of the republic said: In the last four years basic and important steps have been taken with regard to the transfer of the shares of government companies, but we have not yet reached the desired point. Various steps must be taken concerning the stock market to increase its efficiency.

Rowghani-Zanjani emphasized the need to expedite the process of privatization. He said: In this area the government has required the Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs to prepare guidelines for the transfer of shares outside the stock market.

RESALAT's economics correspondent reports that the measure enacted by the Economic Council concerning the transfer of shares, setting their prices, and the procedure for selling them for installment payments, which will go into effect on 1 Farvardin next year [21 March 1994], reads as follows:

The base price of profitable producing companies (with the exception of agricultural and industrial and service companies and companies that have shown losses in the three years prior to transfer) is determined by dividing the net pretax profit by the rate of capital return, taking into account the factors affecting the company's adjusted profits, as well as the effects of the secondary factors that adjust the base price of the company's shares.

It is necessary to note that the rate of capital return is equal to the effective rate of profits on long-term capital five-year bank deposits (15 percent) in addition to 5 percent.

Likewise, the finished cost of development projects and the cost for the completion of semicomplete or operable projects that went into operation less than a year ago will be recalculated, adjusted by the foreign exchange cost at the current price of foreign exchange and also adjusted by the rial costs using the wholesale price indicator announced by the Central Bank or an expert, and after confirmation by the company's general assembly, the difference obtained in the recalculation will be added to the base price of the shares.

The transferring organization is required, prior to transferring the shares, to repay the debts having to do with the funds collected from the Treasury for development

projects, or it must reach an agreement with the treasury on the procedure for that repayment.

Likewise, in cases designated by the official in charge of the organization making the transfer, to facilitate the transfer of the shares where a cash transfer is not convenient, the transfer may be done via installment payments.

It is necessary to note that installment sales are possible only when the buyer or buyers are seeking to buy all the transferring organization's shares at one time.

Installment sales for general purchase applicants, other than the workers and managers of each company, will be conducted as follows:

If 30 percent of the price of the transaction is paid in cash, the balance will be paid in installments over a three-year period. If 40 percent of the price of the transaction is paid in cash, the balance will be paid in installments over a three and one-half years. Likewise, if 50 percent of the price of the transaction is paid in cash, the balance will be paid in installments over a four-year period.

Likewise, to create means for the transfer of the shares of government companies to the managers and employees of these units, this measure says: If the employees and managers of the company wish to purchase the shares and if they are on an equal footing with other buyers, may pay 20 percent of the price of the transaction in cash and pay the balance in installments over a four-year period.

In the case of an installment sale, the price of the transaction consists of the cash price of the sale of the shares in addition to the banking system's profit on an installment sale in the industrial sector.

The guidelines on the procedure for the transfer of the shares of government organizations and companies state:

The base price for the sale of the shares must be confirmed by the minister in charge of the organization transferring the shares, and then it must be printed in an advertisement.

The advertisement of the transfer of the shares must be published in at least two high-circulation domestic newspapers. In addition to that, if necessary, as determined by the transferring organization, the announcement will also be made by the Voice and Vision organization or other information delivery methods.

The transferring organizations are also required to make the appropriate arrangements for the transfer of the shares.

The decision on whether to transfer the shares by auction, negotiations or sale on the stock market will be made by the minister in charge of the transferring organization. Of course, with regard to companies that have been accepted on the stock market, priority in the transfer of the shares will be given to the stock market.

These guidelines emphasize the publication of information concerning the shares sold on the stock market, via negotiations or through competitive bidding, so that at the time of the transfer information must be given by the transferring organization to those wishing to buy shares, such as the name and subject of the company's activities, the number of transferable shares and their percentage of the company's total shares, an announcement of the status of the remainder of the company's shares including the percentage of shares owned by other shareholders, specification of the place to obtain forms and related information, an announcement of the date the shares will be offered in the stock-market hall, the base price, the method of selling the shares in small lots or all at one time, any other kind of information or conditions the transferring organization deems it necessary for buyers to know, and an announcement of readiness for visits to the factory by applicants wishing to visit.

Based on this report, at the end of this press conference the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization excused himself from answering questions. To the question from RESALAT's correspondent concerning the sharp rise in the price of foreign exchange, he replied: I do not give interviews.

* Banking Decisions To Control Foreign Exchange Market

94LA0112B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 March 94 p 15

[Text] Yesterday Dr. 'Adeli, chief of the Central Bank, gave a talk in which he announced the main reasons for the increase in the foreign exchange rate on the free market.

He said the main reason for the increase in the foreign exchange on the free market is the demand for foreign exchange. He said: Recently the market demand for foreign exchange by certain groups has increased dramatically, and this has caused an increase in its rate.

Dr. 'Adeli said the main groups are importers and merchants. He said: This group has put pressure on the foreign exchange market, and as a result of this demand, the corresponding rate of foreign currencies has increased.

He said: Factories and industrial units, which are mostly government-owned, have brought heavy demand to the foreign exchange market, and this has caused an increase in its rate, and this increase has also been accelerated by brokers and speculators.

Dr. 'Adeli said: Another factor, which has been very effective in the value of foreign exchange, is increases in the prices of products from some government factories, where this group mainly uses the bank's floating foreign exchange rate of 1,750 rials [R].

In explaining this matter, he said: These factories have raised the prices of their goods so much that importers of goods are using dollars that cost more than R2,000.

He noted that another factor in the increase in the foreign exchange rate is psychological, which must not be overlooked. He said: The method of reporting on changes in the foreign exchange rate by some publications is such that not

only does it not serve to calm the economic atmosphere, it severely heats up the rumor market.

He added: At this time Iran's enemies, by decreasing the price of oil, are trying to stop Iran's growing economy. Thus the nation's various economic agents must join hands and prevent damage by the enemy.

Dr. 'Adeli said: To prevent plots like this, the various sectors must not increase demand on the foreign exchange market and cause the rate to rise.

He emphasized: All agents must work together to protect and stabilize the nation's money. One cannot expect to guide all the agents in the commercial, guild and financial sectors in the proper direction through Central Bank sales of foreign exchange.

Dr. 'Adeli said: Various studies have been done following the recent changes on the foreign exchange market. After views were exchanged on the Economic Council and in the Council of Ministers, the proposals studied were considered in the Paragraph 3 Committee. To bring about the necessary cuts in this year's foreign exchange costs, in view of the reduced pressure from the nation's foreign exchange commitments as the result of the current financial negotiations with our trading partners, and also in view of the reduced foreign exchange expenditures for next year as the result of investments and the self-sufficiency achieved in some economic sectors, the Paragraph 3, Note 29 Committee presented the following decisions to the president of the republic aimed at reducing the existing demand for foreign exchange on the free market and on the foreign exchange market and to answer that demand through the banking system:

1. The foreign exchange required to register the orders remaining in the Central Bank will be allocated in the form of drafts by the Central Bank, and the necessary steps will be taken concerning this amount by the end of the current year.

2. The Central Bank will allocate the foreign exchange required to register priority orders that are now in the banks, and will pay it in the form of drafts by the end of the current year.

3.- As of the beginning of the year 1373 [21 March 1994] the Central Bank will take steps to meet the demand for foreign exchange to register all orders that have been made through ordinary procedures such as the opening of credit documents by the commercial banks.

In view of the measures that have been taken, these kinds of credit documents will be paid when they are due. Thus all those seeking to import raw materials and parts will be able to get the foreign exchange they need at the bank's floating rate by opening credit documents payable on sight or payable at maturity at one of the commercial banks, after registering their orders at the Ministry of Commerce.

4. In view of the fact that the import of any kind of merchandise can be done only by registering the order at the Ministry of Commerce and through the lawful executive officer, the relevant organizations are therefore required to intensify the campaign against smugglers and to deal with violators.

5. When necessary, the Central Bank will intervene in the foreign exchange market in the manner required.

6. Increases in the prices of the products from government factories and companies and factories and companies affiliated with the government without the approval of the Economic Council has been prohibited. The Ministry of Commerce and the Consumer and Producer Protection Organization are required to take the steps necessary to set prices, in accordance with regulations. At the same time, government organizations and companies and organizations and companies affiliated with the government are not authorized under any circumstances to procure the foreign exchange they need on the free market. They are required to procure the foreign exchange they need exclusively through the lawful executive officer.

Dr. 'Adeli then advised the owners of industry, producers, and importers not to rush to buy the raw materials for the products they produce and not to obtain the goods they need on the free market, but rather to do their work at the proper time, calmly and gradually through normal bank procedures and using the banking system.

He said: The Central Bank's studies show that the market foreign exchange rate is not justifiable, and the Central Bank has decided not to increase the floating foreign exchange rate. It believes that with the cooperation with the other agents previously named, this rate can even be decreased.

Dr. 'Adeli said: Next year credit accounts will be opened in the normal way, and those registering orders should not rush to obtain their goods.

Decisions have also been made in the area of import procedures using the foreign exchange from exports, to be announced later by the Ministry of Commerce.

Dr. 'Adeli was then asked for his opinion about a rumor on the foreign exchange market that the government is increasing the foreign exchange rate to make up its budget deficit. He answered: This rumor is completely unfounded, because the government has no need to make up its budget deficit in this way.

He explained: Rial credits have been allocated to the same extent that we have revenues, and the Plan and Budget Organization has exercised great economy in its rial expenditures. Revenues are therefore entirely in line with expenditures, and for some costs 70 percent has been trimmed from the amount expected.

A second point is that this year foreign exchange costs have been sharply cut, so that the eight-month statistics for the nation's imports show savings of 35 to 40 percent on foreign exchange costs and reductions in the nation's imports, which is a striking figure.

Dr. 'Adeli said: The government and the bank favor a lower foreign exchange rate. If the bank decides to intervene in the market sometimes, this intervention will be to control prices.

Dr. 'Adeli was asked about the effects of the recent drop in the price of oil on recent events. He said: Decreased oil revenues affect the amount of foreign exchange the government sells, but several other things have also happened, which compensate for this drop in price to a great extent.

These events include the fact that in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] heavy cuts were made in foreign exchange expenditures, and this was accomplished by controlling imports of certain goods, controls on imports and increased tariffs.

He said: The result of these steps was a reduction in the amount of goods imported into the country compared to the previous year. At the same time the nation's foreign exchange needs were reduced by self-sufficiency and investments in some sectors.

Dr. 'Adeli was asked about the effect of currency in circulation on the demand for foreign exchange. He said: Currency in circulation and its growth is an important factor in the excessive demand for foreign exchange. The people know that in the first half of the current year [21 March-23 September 1993] the Central Bank made striking efforts to control currency in circulation.

In this regard 'Adeli asked the government factories and companies to manage their finances efficiently in order to minimize their need for currency in circulation, and to refrain from buying foreign exchange on the free market.

In conclusion he said: To control the foreign exchange rate, cooperation is necessary from all those involved.

* Budget Cuts Aimed at Financial, Other Problems

94LA0112A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 March 94 p 1, 15

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The first goal of the Majles in cutting expenses is to reform the government's administrative and financial structure.

The above was announced yesterday in an interview with RESALAT'S parliamentary correspondent by Engineer Hashem Rahbari, deputy from Tehran and member of the Majles Plan and Budget Commission.

He said: The Plan and Budget Commission believes that the administrative organizations can be managed in a more limited form than the present one and that this amount of cost is not needed for the nation's administrative organizations. If the price of foreign exchange is going to rise on the one hand and on the other hand the organizations are going to expand, no kind of structural reform will take place.

Continuing, he added: To cut unnecessary government expenses, the Majles has made a policy that strict economy will be observed in the purchase of buildings, land, automobiles, and in changing decorations and carpets, and this is the will of the Majles. On the one hand, in view of outstanding foreign commitments, to establish a positive direction, 50 percent of the cuts made in the government's proposed budget, in the event that additional revenues are obtained, will be used to pay commitments, which will protect the nation's credit.

Continuing this interview, Engineer Rahbari said: It is the Plan and Budget Commission's view that the finished costs of goods and services announced by the government are not that high, and that by adopting certain measures the finished costs can be reduced.

He added: In view of the presence of concerned specialists and existing resources, more reliance can be placed on domestic construction, and the finished cost can be reduced by reforming procedures, economizing, and creating more efficiency, productivity, and profitability, in order to make the pressure on the consumer just and logical. Because this measure is in the interest of the people, they will accept it. For this reason, all the price increases proposed by the government were not accepted by the Majles.

The Plan and Budget Commission member emphasized the fact that the Majles places great importance on solving the economic problems of the people. He added: To achieve this goal, the Majles increased the subsidies on some goods needed by the people. The amount of subsidies for drugs was increased from the government's proposed $330 million to $400 million, the subsidies for basic goods were increased from $695 million to $800 million, 220 billion-rials[R] credit was approved for education and training and R70 billion was approved for student scholarships and food.

He then discussed the credits allocated for the deprived areas. He said: The Majles added R50 billion to the credits for this sector. Credits were approved to provide water service in 1,000 villages. The government proposed to provide electrical power to 500 villages, and the Majles increased this to 1,500 villages. In addition, the Majles has provided for the expansion of electrical power in 300 cases. Likewise, the Majles has made provisions in next year's budget to install telephones in 500 villages. He noted that to expand gas delivery service, the Majles allocated R100 billion for the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995].

He emphasized: While the Majles has set out to economize, it is moving in the direction of implementing social justice.

* Registration of 36 Foreign Companies Noted

94LA0108B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Feb 94 p 19

[Text] Economics Division. In the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] 14,442 domestic companies with capital of about 342 billion rials[R] in 82 of the nation's cities were registered, representing increases of 2.8 percent

in terms of numbers of companies and 44.3 percent in terms of capital over the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

The Central Bank's Office of Economic Statistics reports that in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] 1,706 domestic companies with capital in excess of R20.4 billion were officially dissolved, representing increases of 1.4 percent in terms of numbers and 157.6 percent in terms of capital compared to 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

Based on this report, last year 36 foreign companies with capital of more than R1.626.1 trillion were registered, a 2.17-percent decrease in terms on numbers compared to 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992].

Of the total number of registered companies, 50.1 percent are corporations, 41.5 percent are limited partnerships, and 7.7 percent are cooperatives.

This report adds that of the total number of companies registered in 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], about 28.1 percent was in the construction sector, 32.4 percent was in the industrial sector, 19.4 percent was in the commercial sector, 13.6 percent was in the credit institution, insurance, brokerage and commercial services sector, and the remaining 10.8 percent was in other economic activities.

Likewise, the percentage of registered companies whose dissolution was announced in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] was 12 percent in terms of numbers and 3.3 percent in terms of capital.

This report adds that after Tehran the cities ranking highest in numbers of registered companies were Esfahan, Ahvaz, Mashhad, Shiraz, Tabriz, Urmia, Bandar 'Abbas, Kerman, and Kermanshah, and that after Tehran the cities ranking highest in terms of the total capital of their registered companies were Bandar 'Abbas, Mashhad, Esfahan, Kashan, Shiraz, Yazd, Tabriz, Ahvaz, and Urmia.

* Khamushi Discusses Foreign Exchange Problems

94LA0111A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Mar 94 p 15

[Text] Economic Division. The greatest factor in the rapid increase in the market price of foreign exchange over the last two weeks is the failure to open draft credit accounts for factories in the banking system and their turning to the open market.

Other factors in the increase in the foreign exchange rate on the market were the approaching New Year's holidays, planning for travel, and turning to the market to procure foreign exchange, conversion of the cash of government factories, companies and institutions to foreign exchange for future purchases, and the creation of a psychological mood to make profits.

The above was announced yesterday in an interview with RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent by Engineer Seyyed 'Alinaqi Khamushi, Majles deputy from Tehran and chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industries. He gave an expert analysis of the reasons and factors in the instability of the foreign exchange market in recent months, and he criticized and studied the Central Bank's policies in this regard.

Reduced Foreign Exchange Revenues in the Current Year

Eng. Khamushi began by discussing the roots of this problem. He said: In the First Five-Year Plan foreign exchange and revenue sources and expenses were taken into account, but in practice the expenses were as predicted while the revenues did not come in, and there was a scandalous deficit. The second question is the manner of using financial resources. If debts are studied it will be clear that 70 to 80 percent of them are short-term and about 20 percent are long-term, and this in itself has created escalating problems for the country.

Continuing, he said: Another problem concerns the revenues anticipated from the sale of oil, which are far removed from reality. For example, in the current year government revenues from the sale of oil are about $3 to $4 billion less than anticipated, and this figure will create problems for the nation's economic ability.

Excessive But Nonessential Imports

Eng. Khamushi then discussed the problems caused by the procedures for allocating foreign exchange. He said: Based on legislation from the Third Majles, the Foreign Exchange Allocation Committee divided approved credits from the very beginning according to sectors. In order to spend the allocations approved for that year the government organizations consumed and imported in cases where it was not necessary without taking priorities into account.

He also added: Most of this consumption and importing was in the commercial sector and in government imports of manufactured goods, most of which did not have priority. Currently many of these goods are gradually being put on the market, yet there has been absolutely no need for some time to import some of these goods.

Continuing, the chief of the Chamber of Commerce discussed the way the banking system allocates foreign exchange. He said: Since the time the foreign exchange rate was allowed to float and the various banks were authorized to open credit accounts for goods, any kind of policy or priority in the country went off the boards, and some goods were imported in abundance into the country without taking necessities into account. This caused the amount of foreign exchange earned through oil exports to become imbalanced in relation to the nation's import needs and it brought us up against a shortage of foreign exchange. This caused the price of foreign exchange, which is like a commodity on the market, to increase.

Injecting Foreign Exchange Into the Market

Eng. Khamushi criticized the Central Bank's injection of foreign exchange into the market. He said: At the outset the Central Bank announced that there are no limitations of any kind on the insertion of floating foreign exchange into the market, without taking into account the extent of market struggle and demand. After some time they realized that no matter how much foreign exchange is injected into the market, there is still a struggle and that doing this is a mistake.

He added: Before they imposed restrictions, they paid $5,000 to anyone with a passport, and it reached the point where this procedure brought the nation's foreign exchange consumption up to $70 million per week. This is one of those mistakes that were made without paying attention to the market pulse and its struggles. During the period when this procedure was in effect, about $1 billion was injected into the foreign exchange market, while at the same time the figures on opening credit accounts had fallen to less than $10,000 and we were faced with nonpayment. This can in reality be called a foreign exchange disaster and a banking system disaster that brought the country face-to-face with a problem.

In the same regard the chief of the Chamber of Commerce added: When the banking system officials took notice and stopped this practice it was already too late and we were faced with the failure to make payments, and this failure to make payments has continued for a little over a year, is still going on, and has created a serious problem for the country. It has caused foreign banks to refuse to accept credit accounts because of the failure to make payments. To solve their problem, importers, most of which are factories, have resorted to importing without the transfer of foreign exchange. Doing this means disrupting supply and demand and the result of that is also to increase the price of foreign exchange.

Continuing, Eng. Khamushi said: This measure was adopted about three months ago, and the practice continued for some time. Gradually the currency changers took over the work of the banks. Goods were paid to the money seller for the transfer of foreign exchange, and goods were imported. In negotiations with the Central Bank we brought the bank to the conclusion that this was a mistake and that the bank must do this work. Before the bank adopted this measure the price of the dollar at the bank was 1,750 rials[R] and it was R2,300 on the market. As soon as the bank agreed to do the work on drafts, the floating foreign exchange rate dropped from R2,300 to about R2,000 and this trend has continued for four months.

Registration of Many Orders and the Central Bank's Decision

The chief of the Chamber of Commerce then discussed a recent improper decision by the banking system. He said: A procedure that was adopted by the banking system was a mistake that was made due to the effects of excessive orders registered in the Ministry of Commerce. When the Central Bank was unable to open credit accounts for these orders, the bank suddenly decided to rescind them. It announced to the applicants that there was no ability to open credit accounts. As soon as the bank announced this decision and it became known in the market, all the applicants turned to the market and the market price of foreign exchange increased.

Eng. Khamushi discussed the solution to the current foreign exchange market problems. He said: To reach an immediate result and stop this current trend, the banking system should continue the same system of drafts that was being used until three weeks ago. It should continue this until the day the opening of credit accounts returns to normal and the banks accept the opening of credit accounts. Priority should be given to factories, machinery, and raw materials until this huge volume of demand can be removed from the market and the bank can stop the rise in the price of foreign exchange.

Agreement Between Iran and Germany Concerning Debts

In conclusion, the chief of the Chamber of Commerce said: Just as was announced, negotiations were held with Germany concerning the suspension of debts and the movement towards normalization of relations with this country has begun. It is very likely that the negotiations with Japanese officials will also conclude by the end of the week. Negotiations will also be held in turn with other European countries. This will be a step towards returning the situation with opening credit accounts to normal. If the banking system does not increase the foreign exchange rate and if it does not create unwanted inflation, and if it works with drafts until the opening of credit accounts is normalized, then the foreign exchange rate on the free market will decrease, the difference between the bank's foreign exchange rate and that of the free market will be reduced, and the situation on the foreign exchange market will return to normal.

* Court of Justice: Dealing With Peoples' Complaints

94LA0108C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Feb 94 p 5

[Text] Note. In view of the importance and sensitivity of the Court of Administrative Justice in the judiciary and in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we set out to interview Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ferdowsipur, chief of this court, concerning this judiciary entity's accomplishments and procedures. What follows is the result of the interview. With thanks to him, we present the text of the interview for our esteemed readers.

[RESALAT] What are the limitations and responsibilities of the Court of Administrative Justice? Was its formation an innovation by the Islamic Republic, or did it have a precedent?

[Ferdowsipur] Ferdowsipur began by detailing the duties in the short history of the Court of Administrative Justice. He said: The Court of Administrative Justice actually

exercises supervision over government administrative offices, units, organizations, and entities. It also deals with grievances from the public concerning guidelines and charters. It is a source of pride for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that we also have a substitute magistrate. If the chief justice is sick or on vacation, that magistrate can manage the branch court. Every branch court has an office manager, and it also has a secretary who helps register and distribute complaints and judgments. We have two review councils composed of five judges, and the chief of this court is the general chief of the court. The other four judges are chosen every six months in ballot voting by the chiefs of the branch courts, and they study the cases. One of the benefits of our constitution is the enactment of this same Article 173 concerning the formation of the Court of Administrative Justice.

In previous governments we did not have such organizations and supervision over government offices. Of course, there was a legal body called the administrative council, but this administrative council was never established and implemented.

After the great revolution of France, an Administrative Council Law was passed to supervise the work of the government. This council began its work under the supervision of the legislative power. According to them, this supervision has been successful so far. It is also the same way in England, except that it is under the supervision of the judiciary power. We do not have such supervision in other countries.

[RESALAT] Must the plaintiff or the complaints definitely come from the people?

[Ferdowsipur] If we refer to the proceedings of the Assembly of Experts we see that after this article was proposed debates occurred. In their remarks concerning the Court of Administrative Justice, some of the gentlemen paid no attention to the characteristics of the Court of Administrative Justice. However, Mr. Hashemi, president of the republic, gave a talk in which he said: "I, myself, was a defender of the Court of Administrative Justice, and my view was that we ought to have a powerful and authoritative organization to supervise the authoritative government organizations, one that will act with full power and decisiveness."

The first session of the Court of Administrative Justice took place at the Higher Martyr Motahari School, chaired by Mr. Emami-Kashani. Because it was a newly established entity, they chose the best judges. The offices of chief of the Court of Administrative Justice were held by Grand Ayatollahs Rezvani, Feyz-Gilani, Musavi-Tabrizi, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Abbasifard. We have three pillars in the court, the plaintiff, the defendant (in the Court of Administrative Justice the plaintiff and the plaintiff side must definitely come from the people), in the sense that if the government, or the government office or institution or the prosecutor want to complain, it will be rejected in the court.

He added: The defendant must definitely be the government, meaning the ministries, the district governor's offices, the general offices, the government organizations and any organization that procures the salaries for its workers through the government. Therefore, the Veteran's Foundation, the Martyr Foundation, and other foundations affiliated with the government, which are supervised by the president of the republic, the municipalities, the Urban Land Organization, and the seven-person councils can also be the defendants for complaints.

The third pillar is the question of complaints, and this goes back to administrative violations, i.e., if any worker violates the laws and regulations, which pertain to his work, and if a complaint is lodged by someone about the violation, we will investigate these complaints.

[RESALAT] In what way are illegal guidelines investigated and voided?

[Ferdowsipur] If illegal guidelines are issued by the ministries or offices of governors-general and if someone complains about them, they are investigated, and if it is determined that they are illegal, the order to void them is issued. If we do not determine that it is illegal or if we have doubts, we seek an opinion from the Guardian Council.

If the interested party complains about guidelines, letters of enactment, and charters, and guidelines for government organizations and centers, which is illegal, we are required to attend to it, and what we do is announce that it is illegal and order it nullified, or we announce that it is not illegal and issue a verdict of affirmation.

[RESALAT] In what way can the people complain about government organizations, foundations, and municipalities?

[Ferdowsipur] Our petitions have specific forms that are sold at the post offices in all the cities. The people can obtain the petition forms from the post offices, and the procedure for complaining is given on these forms.

[RESALAT] What is the procedure for appealing and protesting the court's opinions?

[Ferdowsipur] After the verdict is issued, if it is against the defendant, he has up to two months to protest and request an appeal. After we receive the information we study the request for appeal. Here either the original verdict is upheld and distributed for implementation or it is ruled deficient and sent to another court at the same level for reconsideration.

[RESALAT] How many judges and branch courts deal with the cases?

[Ferdowsipur] There were formerly 10 branch courts. This Court of Administrative Justice now has 20 branches. The chief of each branch is an experienced and committed judge with a record of service, and there is also a consultant. Likewise, after the verdict is approved on appeal it is distributed for implementation. If the verdict is against the defendant, the person who has executive responsibility and against whom the verdict was issued must carry out the verdict.

[RESALAT] What happens if he does not carry out the verdict?

[Ferdowsipur] We issue a reminder, and if he pays no attention we have a legal article called Article 21, which allows the branch court of the Court of Administrative Justice to terminate the employment of the executive official who refuses to carry out the verdict. This termination is in proportion to the violation, which has been committed.

[RESALAT] What will happen if an executive official in a higher position does not carry out the verdict? For example, what will happen if the mayor of one of the districts of Tehran is convicted in the Court of Administrative Justice, but the mayor of Tehran, who is a higher executive official, does not carry out the verdict concerning his mayor from the court of justice?

[Ferdowsipur] The implementation of the verdict pertains to the highest ranking executive official in that organization. For example, if we order the dismissal of the mayor of a district, the general mayor must implement it and if he does not, the highest level executive official, meaning the president of the republic, can do this.

I told the chief of the branch court to carry out the law in accordance with the regulations he has and to coordinate it with me wherever he encounters problems. I coordinate with the highest ranking executive official to carry out that verdict.

For example, regarding the position of president of one of the universities, we had a verdict on a complaint received from one of the professors of the university, which was issued for the professor and against that university. We had to implement Article 21, because this verdict was not implemented for about two years. I got in touch with the minister of culture and higher education and told him we have such prerogatives. I believe that we should not do such a thing without coordinating with the highest level executive official. He welcomed this, and because he was not familiar with the case the files were given to him to familiarize him with its details. He said that they would implement the verdict themselves if possible, and if not we were free to do as we wished under the law, and this is just what we did.

[RESALAT] Where has the case gotten now regarding the dismissal of one of Tehran's regional mayors and his failure to obey the verdict from the court of justice?

[Ferdowsipur] In this regard I have also heard that that official for the municipal district was sentenced to termination of employment. However, to keep from executing the verdict, they resorted to starting a rumor that he had been pardoned by the exalted leader. Then when Mr. 'Abbasifard told Ayatollah Yazdi, Ayatollah Yazdi said that he was the one who recommends pardons; how could this person have been pardoned by the exalted leader without me knowing? It is, therefore, nothing more than a rumor. Then they realized that the truth had been discovered. They worked in secret for a time and then were forced to carry out the order to dismiss the mayor of that district.

[RESALAT] Do you have stronger procedures under consideration to carry out the orders of the Court of Administrative Justice?

[Ferdowsipur] I have coordinated this subject with the minister of justice, with Ayatollah Yazdi, with other officials, with the Majles, and with the Article 90 Commission so they will support our verdicts so we can implement our verdicts decisively. God willing, we hope the issue will not arise. Second, if such a thing happens we will act in accordance with rules and regulations.

[RESALAT] What is the difference between the General Council of the Court of Administrative Justice and the Supreme Court?

[Ferdowsipur] Another organization we have is the General Council of the Court of Administrative Justice. This council meets once a week on Saturday. Verdicts that contradict each other are presented in this council. That is, if two similar complaints are presented in two branch courts and the issued verdicts are in conflict, these complaints are sent to this council to resolve the conflict. After a review, if it is decided that there is a conflict, a new vote is then taken on which verdict is correct. There is a general council both on the Court of Administrative Justice and on the Supreme Court, and it has law-making status, meaning that opinions issued by this general council have the force of law. The same is true of the national Supreme court, although the area of competence of each is different.

[RESALAT] In the Court of Administrative Justice, may those who lack the credentials of an attorney represent the two sides in the consideration of the complaints?

[Ferdowsipur] The interested party or his attorney may make the complaint. Of course, the attorney must be qualified and a member of the Attorney's Society.

[RESALAT] Is it compulsory or optional to have an attorney at the Court of Administrative Justice?

[Ferdowsipur] This issue was raised at a meeting of judicial officials and a decision was made that the attorney must be required. Of course, if the party himself does not want to get an attorney and says he will defend himself, we will not accept this and at the time of the trial officials must obtain a government attorney for him, because this is their right unless he himself has no interest.

[RESALAT] What are the statistics on the court's backlogs and verdicts issued?

[Ferdowsipur] Answering, the chief of the Court of Administrative Justice said: The total case backlog in all branch courts is 1,000 to 1,100 cases. About 100 cases arrive at each branch court each month.

One of the distinctions of the Court of Administrative Justice is that every branch court is required to hear 70

cases month, meaning it must issue a verdict on them. If the number is less than this the court is reprimanded. If the number is between 70 and 120, in accordance with a measure we have this year it receives a commission. For the branch courts, which hear more than 120 cases, we give a prize to the three highest, and we have a court that completes 300 cases per month. Sometimes, however, when a case takes too long it is not the fault of the court of justice, because we must send one copy of the plea to the defendant, and sometimes the defendant does not answer for up to six months.

[RESALAT] How far has the work on the seven-person land investigation councils gone?

[Ferdowsipur] The work on the seven-person councils has been completed in the court. Of course, we have cases for which a verdict has not yet been issued, and they will also be heard. However, the final verdict will be given by a council designated by the Interests Discernment Council consisting of a judge confirmed by the chief of the judiciary, a Majles deputy confirmed by the speaker of the Majles, and a person chosen and confirmed by the minister of agriculture. These three people are a council, and they must study all the cases of the seven-person councils that have ended here with the issuance of a verdict.

Recently a set of guidelines for these councils was presented at a meeting of judicial power officials by the minister of justice and was approved. The three-person councils will be formed to deal with these kinds of cases in order to determine their outcome.

[RESALAT] In conclusion, do you have any special recommendations for the public and for the two parties to a case?

[Ferdowsipur] Some complaints are time consuming. The complaint is rejected and they complain at another court, meaning they present their complaints several times. It would be better for people like this to consult with a judge or a lawyer to deal with the problem. A judge is not anyone's family. When he issues a verdict the right to protest is retained for individuals, but when the verdict is finalized it must be obeyed. Send individuals to give advice which, in the words of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him), will be plastered on the walls.

Pakistan

Envoy to India Notes Local Reaction to F-16 Issue

BK2603135694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Mar 94

[Text] The Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi has described as unjustified the hue and cry raised by India on the reports of the provision of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. A press release issued by the High Commission has referred to the joint communique issued in 1981 after the visit to Pakistan of the then Indian external affairs minister and the present prime minister, Narasimha Rao. In the communique, both sides endorsed each other's right to acquire weapons for their defense. As India has already acquired a large quantity of arms, it should not sense any threat from Pakistan. The press release further states that the F-16 issue, payment for which has already been made, concerns Pakistan and the United States. The press release also gives a reminder of the fact that Pakistan has never tried to have any influence on the acquisition of arms by India, although the acquisition of such arms has altered the balance of power in the region. Pakistan has always tried to maintain a balance in conventional arms and has supported a ban on the acquisition and installation of weapons of mass destruction and has also submitted several proposals in this regard. The press release asks India to hold constructive talks with Pakistan so as to ensure peace and stability in the region instead of indulging in arguments and debates.

5 Vehicles Burned in Karachi; 2 Killed in Shooting

BK2703114894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] In Karachi, at least five vehicles were put to torch by some unidentified persons in different parts of the city today. Agency reports speak of sporadic incidents of firing from some areas of the city, including Landhi, Korangi, and Malir in which two persons are feared dead. An official spokesman in Karachi has made it clear that the government will do its duty to protect the life, honor, and property of the people and would ensure maintenance of law and order.

Indian Troops Allegedly Kill 12 People in Kashmir

BK2703144994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Mar 94

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian troops have martyred 12 more people including six in custody during the past 24 hours. Thousands of people attended the funeral of three youths martyred in custody in Anantnag-Islamabad. These youths were arrested in a crack down in (Datharin) 25 kilometers from Anantnag-Islamabad. Bullet-riddled bodies of two youths were recovered in Kupwara. Mojahedin, in retaliation, carried out rocket attack on an army camp at (Gamir) in Rajaori area inflicting heavy casualties on Indian forces and damaging the camp.